

Hafa Adai!

Torres: CNMI needs more help to maintain system, save lives. PAGE 2

'IPI not to blame if China blacklists CNMI due to gambling' PAGE 5

75¢

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 237

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2020

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

## Search continues for 2 fishermen

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The search for two missing fishermen and their vessel continues, with the search entering Day 3 today.

### AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Nov. 29, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	6,748	20	6,768
Recovered	4,957	564	5,521
Active	1,115	20	1,135
Deaths	111	1	112
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		84,338	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	104	1	105
Traced via Travel Screening	78	0	78
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		22,633*	
Days since last community transmission		104	

\*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Dre Pangelinan confirmed at press time yesterday that the fishermen and their vessel remain lost at sea.

Pangelinan said DPS Boating Safety, with assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard,

See SEARCH on Page 4

### Propst hints at serving House Precinct 1 again

» Former lawmaker resumes criticisms against Torres

FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Despite a slew of critical comments against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on his social media page, former lawmaker Edwin K. Propst remains coy about his future political plans, hinting that he may return to the CNMI House of Representatives.



Propst

See PROPST on Page 4



### GENEROUS HEARTS

Tzu Chi Foundation volunteer Masako Ono shares mini "Words of Wisdom" scrolls to a recipient of the care packages that were distributed by the Friends of CWs last Saturday at the Central Park Roundhouse in Garapan. Ono, wife of the Japanese consul to Saipan, Kazuhiko Ono, was the main sponsor of last Saturday's distribution event.

IVA MAURIN

Story on Page 3

### Passenger tests positive for COVID-19

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Another incoming traveler has tested positive for COVID-19 on the mandatory fifth-day test last Nov. 28, raising the CNMI's cumulative total to 105.

According to a statement by

the Commonwealth Health-care Corp., the individual has been transported to the

### CNMI receives 10 vials of COVID-19 treatment drug

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI received earlier this month 10 vials of bamla-

quarantine site, the Alternative Care Site at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe. CHCC has

nivimab, a treatment for mild-to-moderate COVID-19, and will receive another 10 vials later on.

According to the federal

already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts. Right now, there are two people in isolation at the

See PASSENGER on Page 4

health department, bamla-nivimab, an intravenous drug, is for treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19. It is appropriate. See TREATMENT on Page 4

### INSIDE



#### NATION

Joe Biden summons Americans to join in common purpose against the coronavirus pandemic.

PAGE 13



#### WORLD

Iran's supreme leader demands punishment for those behind the killing of a nuclear scientist.

PAGE 14



#### LIFE & STYLE

Cher is in Pakistan to celebrate the departure of the "world's loneliest elephant" from a zoo.

PAGE 16



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



# Local

## Torres: CNMI needs more help to maintain system, save lives

Although the system to protect the community from COVID-19 has been working in

the CNMI, the federal government needs to continue to provide additional resources in

order to maintain that system, said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. Speaking at a radio news

briefing last Wednesday, Torres said that, with a new incoming administration in Washington,

D.C., he is hoping that the CNMI will get additional assistance from D.C. as COVID-19 still remains and he hopes that D.C. understands the CNMI's position.

"I think one thing that is very important that we acknowledge and make a statement is, 'Do not take us here in the CNMI for granted'...meaning we need more resources," the governor said.

The CNMI may be safe and its number of COVID-19 cases may be down but that

should not mean that resources intended for the CNMI may be diverted elsewhere, he said. Torres said it's important that D.C. understands that the CNMI put all its resources in the very beginning to safeguard the community.

"And we should be awarded to continue to maintain our status here because

the lesser the resources you give us, the more chances for us to have an outbreak here," he said. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



Torres

## Public warned of high surf, rip currents

A high surf advisory now in effect until Tuesday morning and the public is also being warned of a high rip current risk now through Wednesday afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, hazardous surf of 9 to 12 feet and dangerous rip currents will be present along east facing reefs of Tinian and Saipan.

The high surf advisory is in effect until 6am Tuesday. For the high rip current risk, it is in effect through Wednesday afternoon.

These conditions will create dangerous conditions for swimmers and beachgoers.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. The public is being warned to avoid venturing out near reef lines facing east. Large breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries. Very strong rip currents will be life-threatening. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions.

Residents of Saipan and Tinian are urged to avoid venturing out near reef lines facing east. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. **(PR)**

CONGRESSMAN  
**GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN**  
*Serving the People of the Northern Mariana Islands*

## NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS

*Opportunities to learn and serve at the U.S. Service Academy include a fully funded education and a commission as a military officer upon graduation.*

Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan may nominate constituents to the

**U.S. Merchant Marine Academy**

**U.S. Military Academy**

**U.S. Air Force Academy**

**U.S. Naval Academy**

**Eligibility:** U.S. citizen, unmarried with no dependents, age 17-23, high school senior or graduate, strong academic record, and ability to pass a physical fitness test.

To access the nomination application or for more information, visit [sablan.house.gov](http://sablan.house.gov) or call 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.

*This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.*

# Federal Employees and Annuitants

## ENROLL with TakeCare!

## 2020 OPEN SEASON

NOV 09-DEC 14

### CHOOSE:

- Cost and Value
- Comprehensive Network
- Proven Wellness & Fitness Programs\*

\*Non-FEHB Supplemental Wellness Program

Given the extraordinary challenges presented this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's open season will be like no other in the way you'll access information and choose a plan. **Get Ready!!!**

#### Benefit Improvements for 2021

- Emergency Services Notification
- Weight Loss Medications
- Continuous Glucose Monitor
- Preventive Medications
- Telemedicine Services

#### Schedule An Appointment

Prefer to get your questions answered in person or want to pick up a packet or drop off a form? **Call (670) 235-0994 to schedule an appointment.**

takecareasia.com

Connect with us

Our Island, Your Health Plan™

**Learn more. Visit: <https://takecareasia.com/openseason20> or Call: (670) 235-0994**



Friends of CWs volunteers Ladyvir Canape, left, and Irene Holl, right, flank Tzu Chi Foundation volunteer Masako Ono at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse last Saturday, for the distribution of over a hundred care packages to CWs who have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

IVA MAURIN

## More than 100 care packages distributed to foreign workers

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Over 100 care packages were handed out last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse by volunteer group Friends of CWs for foreign workers in the CNMI who remain unemployed or furloughed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The packages included rice, canned goods, butane canisters, noodles, fruits, produce, and eggs.

The main sponsor for this batch of care packages is Masako Ono, wife of the Japanese consul to Saipan, Kazuhiko Ono, who is also a volunteer for the Tzu Chi Foundation. Aside from sponsoring the care packages, Ono also spent hours at the roundhouse joining the volunteers handing out the packages.

"Due to the pandemic... a lot of people... lost their work and they are suffering so I want to help them," Ono said. "I know that they are really in a hardship. It's very painful for me. I want to do something for them so I donated and prepared food parcels. I also wanted to encourage them to care for their mental health so I chose wisdom words by master Cheng Yen, and hope they read it and treasure it in their hearts."

Aside from helping CWs, Ono said the foundation also provided 12,000 masks for the *man'amko*, the hospital, schools, Guma Esperanza, and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

"The Tzu Chi Foundation was founded by a Buddhist nun, master Shih Cheng Yen, in 1966 and, since then, [the

foundation] has been holding to our principle of doing grassroots effort to help the poor alleviate their suffering with concrete actions and educating the rich to do more good deeds," she said, adding that the foundation is nearing its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary and that they are happy that Saipan is part of the growing Tzu Chi family.

Beneficiaries of the care packages came early in the morning and expressed their appreciation to Ono and Friends of CW sponsors. One of them, Albert Bergancia, said the package is a great help, especially since many have lost their jobs.

One of the organizer of Friends of CWs, Irene Holl, said that a total of 138 care packages were handed out, 30 of which were given to Turkish workers shortly after the distribution at the Roundhouse.

"There are still people who need help. That's why we're still here. And there are still people like Masako who offer to help. Our job is to bring the sponsors and people in need together. Friends of CWs is just the arm," Holl said. "We thank the sponsors, past sponsors, now, and the future sponsors. We're still here, and we're still accepting donations because there are still people who are in need. ... So please help, we still need help."

Holl also clarified that Friends of CWs only gives to foreign workers who have not gotten government assistance, have no Public Unemployment Assistance, and are without jobs, or at least have gotten furloughed or have had their work hours reduced.



It's time to  
**FOCUS ON THEM**

Whatever you need, we're right here.

Personal  
Loans\*  
as low as

**4.00%**  
APR\*\*

Apply online at  
**bankofguam.com**

**Bank of  
Guam**



\*Subject to Bank of Guam® lending criteria. Terms and conditions apply.  
\*\* Annual Percentage Rate.



### SAFETY TIPS FROM WUSHIN LPGas

The most common identification of a leak is **SMELL**.  
IF YOU SMELL GAS, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF A FIRE OR EXPLOSION

#### If the odor IS SLIGHT:

1. Shut off gas if possible. Check to see if pilot lights are burning or burner valves are on
2. Open windows and doors to increase ventilation
3. DO NOT light matches or cigarettes
4. DO NOT operate switches or electrical appliances
5. If leak cannot be found, or if odor persists, leave the building
6. Call emergency number indicated in Wushin invoice or call the Fire Department from a neighbors phone

For your LP gas needs, please call  
Wushin LPGas at 322-7415 or 322-8733  
Open from  
8:00am - 5:30pm, Monday - Friday  
8:00am - 2:00pm, Saturday



**WUSHIN**  
Since 1983 Committed to Safety Excellence



# Car flips over along As Terlaje Hill

An allegedly intoxicated driver caused his car to flip over and fall into a ditch last Friday along As Ter-

laje Hill near the accident-prone traffic signal lamp post by the Northern Marianas College intersection.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Dre Pangelinan said in a statement to *Saipan Tribune*

## IPI hasn't resumed work yet due to another issue with contractor

**FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Work hasn't resumed yet at the construction site of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino/hotel project in Garapan despite the Department of Public Works' decision to lift its stop-work order last Wednesday because of another dispute, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

The owner of IPI's consultant, DR Safety Consultant LLC, disclosed that a certain Mr. Su is calling the shots at IPI and that IPI management has no idea why he is making the decisions.

The DR Safety owner, who asked that his name be withheld, asked that, if Su has no deal with IPI, then why he is making the decision to get rid of DR Safety and install a new company in its place.

He said Su is giving IPI a bad name.

He said they will again stop the new company from working at IPI

today, Monday.

When asked for comments, IPI chief executive officer Donald Browne said yesterday that the owner of DR Safety is just upset and that negotiation will eventually iron things out.

"He is a nice guy, but if he has a disagreement with IPI or other persons, he should seek legal assistance," Browne said.

The CEO said Mr. Su is an advisor to the IPI board and an investor in another project on Saipan.

Browne did not give Su's full name.

Browne admitted that he is not sure if they will resume work today, Monday, because of the dispute with DR.

It's not clear whether he is the same Su Hongtao that, according to Rep. Cristina Sablan (D-Saipan), shared with her his plans to develop the former La Fiesta Mall and Plumeria Resort properties.

The DR Safety owner said although their contract with IPI was never terminated despite IPI's non-

payment, Su is trying to bring in another safety team to work at the Imperial Pacific Resort project.

He said because of IPI's non-payment there was no plan for them to resume work and that DPW should re-issue the stop-work order against IPI.

He said the new safety team, which has no construction safety experience, however, was supposed to start work last Friday, but they stopped them.

"Mr. Su is trying to hire my old employees," he said. "They [new company] are about to start [working]. They (IPI) tricked us to opening for them, then to find out that they are trying to hire new people to take over us and not pay us."

He said since IPI has not been able to pay any of its contractors, Su stepped into the picture and has been making changes.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

that, as of Saturday evening, the only information he has of the incident is that it was related to DUI, or driving while under the influence of alcohol.

"At this time, the only info I have is that it occurred sometime at 1am and it was DUI-related. Once I get the official report from the traffic investigator, I will have more," he said.

Pangelinan said there were no reported fatalities as of Saturday

evening.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the CNMI saw its first traffic-related fatality last month following a car accident along As Terlaje Hill when a car slammed into the traffic signal lamp post at the NMC intersection.

The incident brought the total number of people who have died in crashes at this specific intersection to three. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

## PASSENGER

From Page 1

Kanoa Resort.

Meantime, the CNMI marked a milestone last Thanksgiving by marking 100 days of zero community transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Yesterday marked the 104th day and CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña believes this confirms "that our system here in the CNMI works—being transparent and consistent in our protocols, which provides confidence for our community to contribute with vigilance."

Muña pointed out that there are many agencies involved that ensure that the directives that are issued by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force are followed, including Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Service, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Commonwealth Ports Authority, CNMI Department of Finance, the Customs Division, and many others.

"We were collecting data since Day 1 and that drives our decisions to implement and adjust protocols and ensure that our community is safe—to maximize benefits and minimize

harm. More is happening as we add vaccine planning into our mission, so we still need everyone's patience, understanding, and continuous vigilance in the coming months," said Muña.

## COVID-19 in Guam

The Joint Information Center in Guam reported Guam's 112th COVID-19-related fatality last Nov. 25, which happened at the Guam Regional Medical City at approximately 8:20pm. The patient was an 81-year-old male with underlying conditions that were further compounded by COVID-19. He was admitted to GRMC last Nov. 25, and tested positive upon admission.

According to JIC, a total of 63 COVID-19 cases were reported from Nov. 25-26. Forty-three of these cases were reported last Nov. 26, and of these cases, 26 were identified through contact tracing and two reported recent travel and were identified in quarantine.

As of Nov. 27, Guam's COVID-19 Area Risk Score is 6.7. The CAR Score accounts for the incidence of new cases, how well current testing identifies these cases, and the rate of spread. According to JIC, the ideal CAR Score for Guam is 5.0 and below.

## TREATMENT

From Page 1

plicable for patients who are 12 years old and older, weighing at least 40 kg, and who are at high risk for progressing to severe infection or hospitalization. This means this drug will only be administered to those who are COVID-19 positive patients who are at risk of becoming worse.

According to a report on the Guam-based newspaper *Pacific Island Times*, a total of 1,310 doses of the drug has been allocated for U.S. territories and freely associated states, with Puerto Rico getting the biggest share of 1,020 doses. Guam received 200; the CNMI, 20; American Samoa, 10; the U.S. Virgin Islands, 30; Palau, 10; the Federated States of Micronesia, 10; and the Marshall Islands, 10.

Though this is good news for the CNMI, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña said the public still needs to continue practicing the 3 W's: wear a mask, wash your hands, and wait at a 6 foot distance.

"There's still a need to practice the three W's. There's still a need to protect, because we're going to see that not everyone's going to be willing to get the vaccines...so those are things that we have to take into account," said Muña.

She stated that their goal is to vaccinate 100% of the CNMI population but setting 100% as a target may not be achievable because people could still refuse to be inoculated. CHCC chose 95%, which means approximately 50,000 residents will be vaccinated. "Achieving this will also ensure we go beyond the minimum 70% needed for herd immunity," said Muña.

According to the World Health Organization chief scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, to achieve herd immunity you need to have approximately 95% of the population to have immunity or antibodies. Even if you have 5% of the people not vaccinated, the other 95% have enough protection in the population to prevent a virus from going from one person to another.

When asked how CHCC will administer the vaccine, Muña stated that they will be offering mass vaccination opportunities that are similar to the community-based testing that was administered at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Additionally, they will engage with the CNMI government and community partners like Rotary International to ensure a wide registration effort. For the registration, Muña stated that it will be just like the CBT registration where people who want to get vaccinated will have to preregister.

Muña did not state when the remaining 10 vials will be delivered here.

## SEARCH

From Page 1

will continue the search today.

According to a DPS statement, DPS received a call at about 9am last Friday about two overdue fisherman who left the Garapan Fishing Base marina at about 5:30am on Thursday morning. The men were due to return on Friday morning.

Police learned from the callers, the fishermen's spouses, that their husbands might be fishing around Goat Island and Tinian. The two fishermen left aboard a white,

21-foot, fiberglass boat named *Sea Swirl*, which is powered by a 150-horsepower, 4-stroke Yamaha engine.

The DPS *Zodiac I* rescue boat was launched at about 9:30am to search around the west side of Saipan as the DPS *Impact* rescue boat searched for the missing vessel at Marpi Reef, Goat Island, and Tinian. The U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy assisted the Coast Guard cutter *Oliver Henry* and the U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 throughout the day.

During the search, the *Impact* rescue boat made contact with vessels

that were fishing around the Esmeralda Reef and Coke Reef but the people aboard those boats stated that there were no other vessels out there. The *Impact* continued toward the west side of Tinian with no sighting of the vessel.

Both rescue vessels continued to search the common fishing areas and made contact with a total of six vessels that were fishing in various areas who reported that they did not see the described vessel or the two fishermen. DPS continued searching for the vessel until it became dark and they had to call off the search for the day.

## PROPOST

From Page 1

tives to represent Precinct 1 in the incoming 22nd Legislature.

*Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain a direct comment from Propst about his plans after seeing his many comments against Torres on Facebook but he had yet to respond as of press time yesterday. Similarly, *Saipan Tribune* also tried to solicit comments from Torres but there was also no response as of press time.

Propst has been silent on social media since he resigned from office as a representative last Oct. 1.

In his Facebook account posted Saturday at 12:07am, Propst (D-Saipan) said one of the first pieces of legislation they will pass in the 22nd Legislature is to cut Torres' salary from \$120,000 to \$60,000 until they see a budget that is not in deficit.

"Every single budget we have seen from this administration has been in deficit spending, and while he and his lackeys blame all kinds of external factors, his personal spending and favorable contracts to connected companies say otherwise," Propst said.

He added that he will never again "be silenced by bullies and extortionists."

At 1:16am Saturday, Propst posted again in his Facebook account that raised the question: "How about no PUA (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance), no paycheck for Gov. Torres?"

"Guaranteed your PUA comes out in no time if this were the standard," he added.

After all, Propst said, the governor is only making \$120,000 a year with unlimited first class travel and unlimited reimbursements. "Do you think Gov. Torres deserves his \$120,000-a-year salary, unlimited first class travels, five publicly paid security details for his mansion and personal bodyguards, and unlimited reimbursements, all while the rest of our people of our islands struggle to survive and await PUA and paychecks?" Propst said.

Last Nov. 13, U.S. Army veteran and former Department of Public Safety official Franklin Reyes Babauta replaced Propst in the 21st Legislature.

Torres appointed Babauta as representative for Election District 1 after House Speaker Blas Jonathan

T. Attao (R-Saipan) declared the seat vacant in the wake of Propst's resignation.

At the Nov. 3 general election, nine of the NMI Democratic Party's candidates for the Legislature, including Propst, prevailed. Ten Republican Party candidates and five independent bets also won.

The election, described by the Commonwealth Election Commission as out of the ordinary, saw Propst as the top vote-getter among 14 candidates for the House Precinct 1. He did this even without campaigning.

Last Sept. 17, the Department of Public Safety confirmed that a sexual misconduct complaint had been filed against Propst and that DPS is looking into the complaint. Last week, DPS issued another statement that the investigation is ongoing.

A concerned citizen, Irene Holl, first wrote to Attao and urged him to conduct a formal ethics investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct against Propst while he was a teacher at Marianas High School and at the Northern Marianas College.

Holl also wrote the same letters to Torres and Attorney General Edward Manibusan.



## WH recognizes Ohala Foundation's Mendiola-Long

The Ohala Foundation congratulates its chairman, Phillip T. Mendiola-Long, for being recognized and thanked by the White House through its Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as a leader and mentor in the community.

This recognition was given to Mendiola-Long and nine other members of the Asian American and Pacific Islanders community throughout the nation for their work in inspiring and making a difference in the lives of those around them.

The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders works to broaden AAPIs access to economic resources and opportunities and empower AAPIs to improve the quality of their lives, raise the standard of living of their families and communities, and more fully participate in our economy.

In a message on its Facebook page, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders said: "This year, the U.S. Small Business Administration announced Phillip T. Mendiola-Long as a 2020 National Small Business Phoenix Award winner, which recognized him for his outstanding contributions to Disaster Recovery by a Volunteer for going above and

beyond to ensure the island's people received food, shelter, lights, and generators in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu, which devastated his island in 2018. Since 2005, Mendiola-Long has been CEO of Sherman Consulting, LLC, a leading advisory firm in the Pacific that assists foreign and U.S. businesses do business in the Asia Pacific Region. His firm is credited with bringing in over \$150 million in capital investments to the Micronesian region; a much needed capital investment to our U.S. territories in the Pacific.

After returning home to the CNMI in 1996, Mendiola-Long has been an active leader in his community. Mendiola-Long has served his community in many important government roles such as the senior policy advisor for the Tinian mayor, chairman of the Marianas Public Land Trust, vice chairman of the CNMI Free Trade Zone, board member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., member of the Governor's Military Task Force, former board member for the State Board of Education, advisor to the CNMI Economic Development Council, board secretary for the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies, and as an elected municipal council-

man from 2016 to 2018. In 2009, Mendiola-Long was appointed by former U.S. Secretary of Commerce as a member to the Hawaii/Pacific District Export Council, where his still serves today. In 2015, Mendiola-Long was selected by the U.S. Department of Commerce and approved by the White House to be a SME delegate to the 2015 APEC SME Summit representing SME Businesses to APEC.

"Mendiola-Long is also especially known for his community work. He currently serves as the technical director and head coach of the youth soccer program on Tinian and is also the cofounder and chairman of the The Ohala Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization that raises funds for the island's first foodbank.

"This Thanksgiving, we thank the many AAPI healthcare heroes who are at the front lines of fighting this pandemic and saving lives!"

The Ohala Foundation's mission is to work exhaustively to raise critically needed funds; and serve as the managing body for a Mariana Islands-based community assistance organization. For more information on how to donate, volunteer or avail of services please visit [www.ohalafoundation.org](http://www.ohalafoundation.org) or call 670-433-2664. (PR)

## 'IPI not to blame if China blacklists CNMI due to gambling'

**FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chief executive officer Donald Browne stressed that IPI has nothing to do with a recent statement by the Chinese Communist Party that it plans to "blacklist" cross-border gambling tourism destinations, which could possibly include the CNMI.

He conceded that the party, which is the ruling government of China, did come out with a statement that it is going to bar destinations that have gambling tourism destinations but "it really has nothing to do with us because there's already gambling here before."

This statement came about during the Commonwealth Casino Commission board's monthly meeting Tuesday when CCC chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero said he wants to discuss the matter with IPI as he believes it will have a very serious implication on not only casino gambling in the CNMI but tourism in general.

In response, Browne said that gamblers do not only come from China and that, prior to COVID-19, less than half of tourists coming to the CNMI are not from China.

In a later interview during a break in the meeting, Browne said if China chooses to bar tourists coming here because there is gambling here, it really has nothing to

do with IPI because there's been gambling here since the previous decades. "So they wouldn't make the determination just based on these things," he said.

Browne said he believes the Chinese government's sentiment is related to wiring money for gambling uses, which is not allowed in China.

It was reported last August that China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism announced that the ministry and other departments will jointly launch a blacklist of overseas travel destinations.

Chinese gamblers spend an estimated \$145 billion a year on illegal gambling sites, mostly in the Philippines, according to *The South China Morning Post* report.



## Northern Marianas College

### PRESIDENT

The Northern Marianas College is currently accepting applications for the position of President. The President of the Northern Marianas College serves as the chief executive officer for the Board of Regents and oversees a multi-campus college system located in three separate islands (Saipan, main campus; Rota Center and Tinian Center). The President will report to the Board of Regents and is expected to carry out the mission of the College:

*The mission of the Northern Marianas College, through its commitment to student learning, provides high quality, affordable and accessible educational programs and services for the individual and people of the Commonwealth. The College serves as the engine to drive the economic growth and the social and cultural vitality of the Commonwealth.*

#### Minimum Qualifications





- A Master's degree from a U.S. accredited university or foreign equivalent. A doctorate degree is preferred;
- At least seven (7) years of executive level management in an institution of higher education of which five (5) years are continuous, **or** a combination of at least seven (7) years of executive level management including, secondary and post-secondary education teaching experience;
- Experience working in a multicultural environment, preferably in the Pacific region and in the Northern Mariana Islands;
- Substantiated experience in accreditation processes, personnel management, budget development and presentation, strategic planning and institutional assessment, fundraising, mediation, and team building; and
- Demonstrated knowledge of federal programs and grants application to higher education.

The salary for the position is \$100,000 per annum plus benefits. Applications will be reviewed after the thirty-day announcement. Applicants with non-U.S. degrees are responsible for providing an official evaluation of their degrees to determine U.S. equivalency.

Applicants should include a curriculum vitae indicating their competences in Organizational Strategy, Resource Management, Communication, Collaboration, College Advocacy, and Professionalism; official transcripts; list of publications or scholarly research; three personal and three professional references (complete with name, title, address, phone/email contact); and four letters of professional recommendations specific to this position.

Applicants can submit completed application packages and documents electronically by submitting them to [PSC.Chairman@marianas.edu](mailto:PSC.Chairman@marianas.edu). Applications can also be submitted by **certified priority mail** and must be received by the closing date of **December 21, 2020** to:

**Charles V. Cepeda**  
Chairperson, Presidential Search Committee  
Northern Marianas College  
Attention: Human Resources Office  
P.O. Box 501250  
Saipan, MP 96950

### USDA Farm Service Agency

## Record Keeping, Crop Insurance & Farm Loan Programs

One common trait that all successful farm operations share is the ability to maintain accurate and up-to-date financial and production records. Financial and production records are also required to qualify for various benefits including FSA loans and crop insurance program.



The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is here to give you some ideas on:

- How to keep basic financial records;
- How to keep farm production records;
- What kind of financial and production records are required to qualify for their programs; and,
- Managing risks when disaster strikes.

Getting the needed funds to purchase farm equipment and supplies can be hard for startup and existing farming business. Understanding the key factors that affect loan decisions and knowing the application process might ease the pain of the loan application process.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is here to give you some ideas on:

- Whether or not you are eligible;
- What are the allowable loan purposes; and
- What they will look at when they receive an application.

Supported by:  


**For more information, contact the CNMI Department of Commerce at (670) 664-3018 or visit us at <https://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events/4687>**

### FREE TRAINING!


**Tuesday,  
December 1, 2020  
8:00am- 10:00am**

### ZOOM WEBINAR

*Presented by*  
**Doreen Rivera**



*Presented by*  
**Tristan Paulino**



**Disclaimer:** The CNMI Small Business Development Center (CNMI SBDC) is a member of the University of Guam Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center (PISBDCN). PISBDCN is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact CNMI SBDC Lorie Pangilinan, P.O. Box 5795 CHR8 Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670)664-3018, or Email [cnmisbdc@pacificsbdc.com](mailto:cnmisbdc@pacificsbdc.com). Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.



# Opinion

## Hafa Adail Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXX, Issue No. 237

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### The COVID-19 vaccine is a gift from science. Accept it

In three separate announcements in recent weeks, three scientific teams at different pharmaceutical companies have given a weary, frightened world what it needs: a verifiable path to defeat the coronavirus pandemic, end the suffering and start the process of returning life to the normal rhythms of “before.”

Imagine again going to work and school, to restaurants and concerts without significant risk of infection. Imagine being able to travel. Imagine hugging family members and friends. We are likely to get there in 2021 because a safe, effective COVID-19 vaccine appears on pace for emergency regulatory approval and fast rollout. This gift of science will be ready—if we accept it.

Wait, if we accept it?

The big question about a COVID-19 vaccine has shifted from efficacy to whether enough Americans will agree to receive it. Skepticism of inoculations is frustratingly widespread, despite overwhelming scientific evidence that they work. Shots are unpleasant and sometimes come with side effects. The anti-vaxxer movement has attacked vaccines for mistakenly believing they may cause autism. In the Black community, suspicions run deep because of the legacy of past abuses by the medical system.

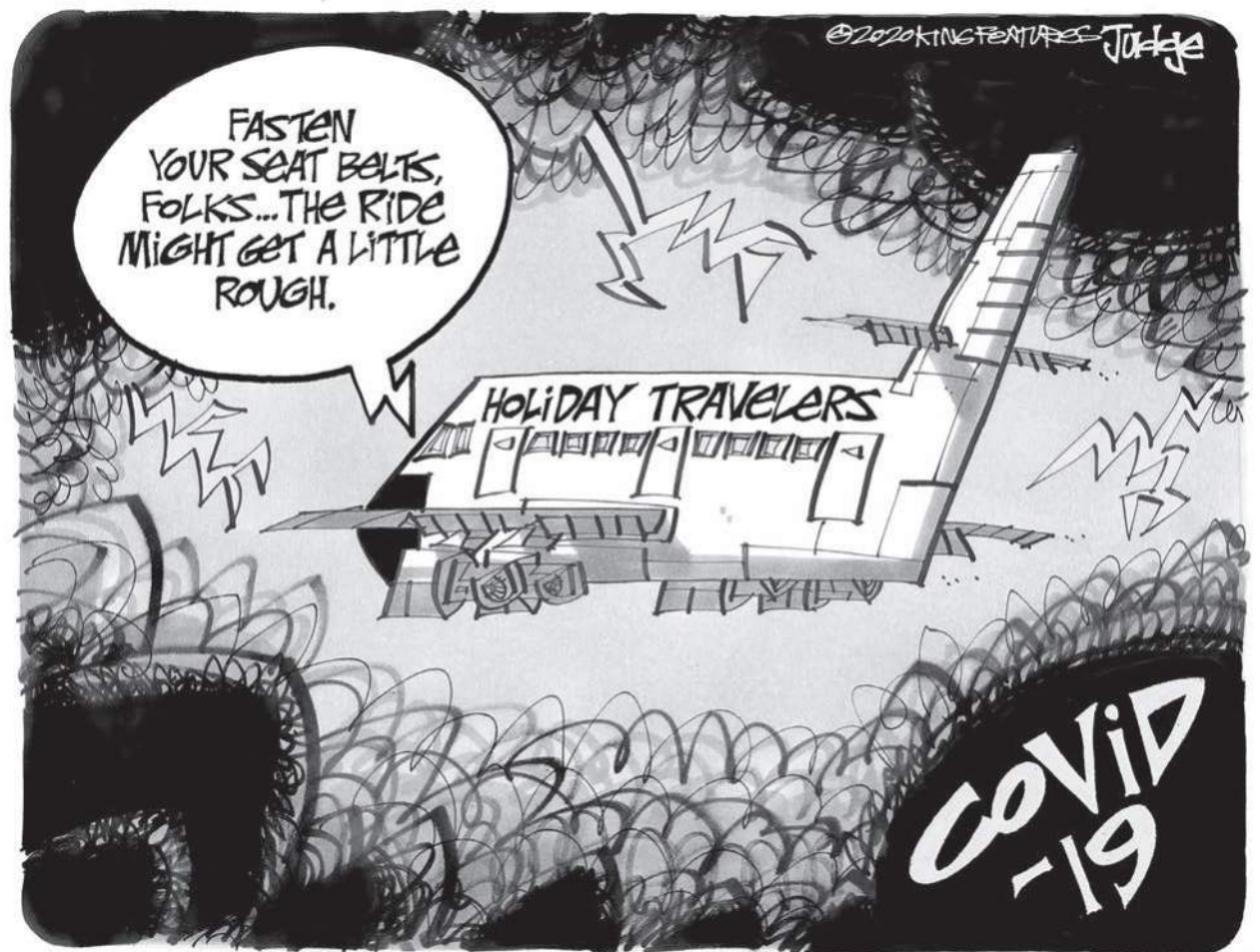
Dr. Susan Bailey, president of the Chicago-based American Medical Association, tells us she trusts the career scientists in charge of the regulatory process to approve a safe COVID-19 drug. Yet she worries: “I think our biggest concern is that we have a great vaccine and people don’t take it.”

A Pew Research Center survey in September of about 10,000 adults found that just 21% of U.S. adults would definitely get a COVID-19 vaccine, and 24% said they definitely would not. The rest were somewhere in the middle, leaning for or against. This is troubling news. If the vaccine becomes an optional response to the pandemic, the virus will continue to spread and cause harm to families and the economy. The country can’t get back to work fully until the outbreak is contained, and the vaccine is the way to get there. “We have to have a significant number of people take it to get to herd immunity,” Bailey warns.

The Pew survey asked a theoretical question about a vaccine. We now have some confirmed details and early results from clinical trials of three different vaccines. Those results are promising. Versions from two U.S. drugmakers Pfizer (with German partner BioNTech) and Moderna are about 95% effective, the companies report. Both vaccines rely on revolutionary technology that uses messenger RNA, or mRNA, to create protection at the molecular level by injecting a piece of genetic code that primes the body’s defenses. Bailey says this would be the first mRNA vaccine to get broad use.

A third vaccine, developed by Europe’s AstraZeneca and Oxford University, relies on a more traditional method of using a modified inactive cold virus to trigger an immune response. AstraZeneca says its vaccine is about 70% effective, but there is some confusion about the data. When researchers injected test subjects with a half dosage the effectiveness jumped to 90%. AstraZeneca’s vaccine would be less expensive

See COVID-19 on Next Page



## Nurses are crucial to the pandemic response. Why aren't they on Biden's COVID-19 board?

By STACY TORRES and ANDREW PENN  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Despite widespread distrust in American institutions, trust in nurses remains high—and could serve as a powerful tool in the fight against COVID-19, which poses the greatest health threat in a century.

For 18 years in a row, Americans have rated the honesty and ethics of nurses highest among a list of professions in an annual Gallup Poll. In 2019, 85% of respondents gave nurses a “high” or “very high” rating in trust, higher than any other profession. The public also holds nurses’ efforts to improve the U.S. health care system in the highest regard, above any other profession, according to a New York Times/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health report on American values and beliefs about national health insurance reform.

Nurses have earned accolades around the world for their frontline contributions to the pandemic response. Then why are there no nurses on President-elect Joe Biden’s COVID-19 advisory board?

The glaring absence of nurses on the board is a missed opportunity that risks further setting back efforts to tame the pandemic. The board is composed of 13 preeminent public health experts, including physicians, epidemiologists and infectious disease specialists. The deep expertise and experience of nurses should be called upon to help tame COVID-19. It’s not too late for the incoming Biden administration to remedy this oversight and add nursing representation to the board.

Nurses have always stood at the nexus of medical decisions, nursing care, patients’ needs and family concerns. The pandemic has only accelerated the pace and raised the stakes for nurses to balance these roles. When an intensive care unit doctor intubates a COVID patient and puts the person on a ventilator, the nurse assists in placing the tube and calls the patient’s family to share updates. Nurses make the minute-to-minute treatment adjustments that help keep COVID patients alive. When a hospital experiences a virus surge, nurses juggle patients to ensure those with COVID receive the care they need while keeping other patients safe from the virus.

Nurses know the communities where they work, and those communities trust nurses. We rely on nurses as our first line of defense against the virus, and community trust in them will be crucial to educate and reassure wary patients receiving future

vaccines in community clinics, hospitals and nursing facilities.

When patients get COVID-19, nurses explain the disease process to them and concerned family members. They go over the medical team’s efforts to help their relative survive and recover. Nurses explain the complex care delivered to the patient to frightened families overwhelmed with trying to understand everything happening in an ICU, with its ventilators and nests of intravenous lines that keep people alive.

Since the coronavirus is disproportionately striking minority communities, these patients and their families may also be facing an avalanche of other pandemic-related devastation. This might include job loss, the threat of eviction, fears of getting tested due to immigration status, language barriers and distrust of the health care system because of the systemic racism they have faced. In areas where the nearest hospital may be several hours away, nurses in community clinics may serve as the first point of contact for a sick patient.

When hospitals run out of personal protective equipment, nurses pay dearly. More than 1,500 nurses worldwide have died from COVID-19. Most nurses—many of whom are women, and many of color—don’t have the luxury of walking off the job to protect themselves. While labor unions have attempted to hold large health care systems accountable for worker safety, significant problems such as dangerous understaffing persist and will likely grow as hospital beds fill and the pandemic wears on.

Although more men are entering the profession, women still account for about 90% of nurses in the U.S. Historically, society hasn’t given the caring and important labor performed by women the respect and compensation it deserves. The World Health Organization may have designated 2020 the Year of the Nurse, in honor of the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth, but we must do more than just dedicate a theme year to nurses and praise them as “health care heroes.”

Appointing nurses to the Biden COVID-19 advisory board would bring a wealth of insight to high-level strategy sessions on how to fight the pandemic. It would also go a long way toward helping

Stacy Torres is an assistant professor of sociology in the department of social and behavioral sciences at UC San Francisco. Andrew Penn is a psychiatric nurse practitioner at San Francisco VA Medical Center and an associate clinical professor at UC San Francisco.



# Successful missile defense test: Welcome news as rogue threats advance

**Y**ou wouldn't know it from the lack of headlines, but the U.S. Navy and Missile Defense Agency recently made history with something that should help make all Americans safer.

Specifically, they successfully shot down an intercontinental-range ballistic missile using the Navy's Standard Missile SM-3 Block IIA interceptor launched from a Navy destroyer.

Missile defense is nothing new, of course. The U.S. has had one for years. But until now, we've tested its ability to defend the homeland from incoming missile attacks only with the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system.

This system consists of 44 ground-based interceptors deployed in Alaska and California, poised to intercept incoming missiles in their midcourse phase as they fly through space before reentering the atmosphere.

These interceptors are a crucial component of U.S. policy to defend the homeland from rogue threats such as North Korea and Iran, both of which have been working to improve their nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities.

Gen. Terrence O'Shaughnessy, former commander of U.S. Northern Command, certified to the U.S. Senate earlier this year that the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system can defend against the North Korean threat today—but the future is less certain. Two main factors drive this uncertainty.

First, the North Korean threat is visibly advancing, as Pyongyang's display of its new "monster" ICBM in a parade last month demonstrates. It's only a matter of time before its force will become large enough to overwhelm our fleet of 44 interceptors.

Second, the fate of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system is uncertain. The Pentagon is pursuing the Next Generation Interceptor program to both increase the capacity of our missile defense system to 64 interceptors and eventually replace our cur-

rent interceptors, which are old.

The Missile Defense Agency aims to begin fielding the Next Generation Interceptor by 2028, but it would be naive to assume such an acquisition program would be free from risk of delay.

Enter the SM-3 Block IIA interceptor. This year, the Pentagon proposed developing a homeland defense "underlay"—a second layer of interceptors that can take a shot at incoming missiles if our Ground-based Midcourse Defense system's interceptors miss. The SM-3 Block IIA interceptor can launch from Navy destroyers or from Aegis Ashore missile defense systems, and is originally designed to intercept theater-range missiles.

The Missile Defense Agency and Navy accomplished a remarkable feat with this intercept, marking the first use of a theater-range, ship-launched interceptor to shoot down a long-range missile. If SM-3 Block IIA interceptors can defend against ICBMs, then the United States could deploy them as a hedge against impending uncertainty in homeland defense.

The Missile Defense Agency can now proceed with a more complex test, potentially against an ICBM target armed with decoys or other missile-defense countermeasures.

The next administration will then have to decide how to employ the SM-3 interceptor to defend the homeland. Its use can be as simple as maintaining the ability to deploy Aegis ships armed with these interceptors to the Pacific in the event of brewing North Korean aggression.

Besides providing an extra defense against a North Korean attack, the presence of these ships can boost deterrence. By lowering the probability that an attack will succeed, missile defense complicates an adversary's attack calculus, forcing countries like North Korea to think twice before pushing the nuclear button.

The next administration could also pursue a series of Aegis Ashore deployments across the United States to establish a per-

By **PATTY-JANE GELLER**

The Heritage Foundation

*Patty-Jane Geller is a policy analyst for nuclear deterrence and missile defense in The Heritage Foundation's Center for National Defense.*



manent SM-3 Block IIA intercept capability. This longer-term option would require more resources and a concerted effort from the Pentagon to figure out how many Aegis Ashore systems would need to be built, and where.

This test already provoked blowback from the Russians and Chinese. They claim advancing U.S. missile defenses will threaten strategic stability by encouraging the United States to launch a first strike without fear of assured retaliation. Such accusations must be dismissed as folly.

Despite these charges, an underlay of SM-3 interceptors simply cannot defend against Russia's and China's advanced arsenals, whose sizes alone can overwhelm U.S. homeland defense. Especially as Russia and China hypocritically advance missile interceptors of their own, the United States must not let Russia and China weigh in on our pursuit of an underlay to defend against North Korea.

As preparations take place for the next administration and a new Congress, homeland missile defense must remain a top priority. With the success of this test, pursuing the SM-3 Block IIA interceptor as an additional means of homeland defense is now a potential path towards a stronger homeland defense.

## 'You don't expect to be so vilified': The strange turn the pandemic took for public health workers

**R**emember in the spring, the pot-banging? People would come out on their porches in the evening to rally for the health workers—to say, collectively for just a minute or two, that we were thankful for the effort.

That spirit seems years away to Anna Halloran.

"There's a large segment of the population that hates the health department right now, that thinks we're lying," says Halloran, a communicable disease epidemiologist in Spokane, Washington.

Halloran works for the Spokane Regional Health District, which recently fired its top health officer, Dr. Bob Lutz. He was sort of the Dr. Anthony Fauci of Spokane. And like the national Fauci, the Spokane one irked some politicians who felt the medical pros had gotten too meddlesome during the pandemic.

Lutz kept resisting a full reopening of the economy, cautioning that a surge of the disease was imminent. He was finally sacked earlier this month, and then immediately proven right—the number of cases in Spokane soared, from about 100 per day in early November to more than 400 per day several times this past week.

"There will be deaths that result from the Board of Health's decision to fire Bob Lutz," a Spokane physician told the local newspaper.

Versions of this story have been playing out around the state. Yakima's top health official just quit last week, saying she could "no longer sustain the costs of the position," the Yakima Herald reported. In the Tri-Cities, there's a community petition to fire the health officer there, mostly due to hard feelings about school reopenings.

In Washington, there are now vacancies for the top health position in Yakima, Walla Walla, Spokane, Whatcom, Lewis, Mason, Chelan-Douglas and Okanogan counties.

"I bet you couldn't find a public health official who hasn't received death threats or haven't had people picketing outside their homes," a hospital association leader told the Yakima Herald.

It isn't just the health policy people. "Doctors Are Calling It Quits Under Stress of the Pandemic," read a New York Times

headline earlier this month.

"We're close as a whole, as health care workers, to being burnt out," Clint Wallace, an ICU nurse in Spokane, testified at a press conference in Olympia on Nov. 15.

Halloran, the Spokane epidemiologist, said she has taken to wondering how it all veered so off track. The work, which for her is identifying and then trying to corral virus outbreaks, has been intense and virtually nonstop since February. Each COVID-19 case that pops up "is like a fire starting," which then has to be put out by teams of investigators and contact tracers, she said.

Imagine the fire department racing after 400 fires per day and you get the picture.

But somewhere along the way the basic principle of this work—that the community is getting sick and needs medical advice and assistance—got somehow twisted.

"The conspiracy theories started, pretty much from the top, and it has just snowballed," Halloran says. "Now every time we post anything about new cases, there's a slew of people who say, 'How many of these are made up?' There's a constant pushback at the most basic level, that we're just lying about it all."

After Halloran's boss, Lutz, was fired, the Spokane mayor, Nadine Woodward, who had bristled at some of the coronavirus restrictions, crassly cheered the firing as "the best news I've heard in a long time." Halloran wrote on Facebook that working the pandemic has been "the worst and most stressful experience of my life."

"I don't think we're seen as a respected agency anymore," Halloran said. "Something happened with politics or in the culture. We're all pretty demoralized. You go into health care and it's the middle of a crisis, you don't expect to be so vilified by the public, or especially by your own political leaders."

Folks — what in the world has happened to us?

A disease pandemic is hard and new, so it's understandable society would struggle. The authority that health officials have in

By **DANNY WESTNEAT**

The Seattle Times

*Danny Westneat is a columnist for The Seattle Times.*



a crisis to at least recommend restrictions and rules that we would never agree to in normal times was bound to provoke controversy.

So when studies of this era are done, maybe we will conclude that in retrospect the medical community could have been more transparent about its decision-making, and therefore come off as less dictatorial, as a shield against exactly these sorts of problems.

But all of that said, we are at the peak of this crisis right this instant. This is it, the malignant experts say: the big wave. It's likely to be worse than in the spring, with more deaths and more strain on the hospitals. With vaccine development going so well, it may also be the final major wave: "The End of the Pandemic is Now in Sight," The Atlantic magazine suggested recently.

That some have chosen this moment to turn on the very people we need most is unconscionable. Of course we're going to have legitimate disagreements about policy. But we've also got to somehow muster some semblance of collective spirit again.

Remember when people were having pizzas delivered to health facilities last spring? It was a boost for the closed restaurants and a pat on the back for the health workers, but more importantly, a symbolic sign that we were all pulling in the same general direction. Some gesture like that is desperately needed again.

This column is my little way of banging on a pot. To all the health people: I'm sorry for what our crazy country has put you through. But please know this: You are appreciated.

## COVID-19

From Page 6

sive and easier to distribute than the other two because it doesn't have to be kept in a deep freeze. The company's CEO says the company is likely to conduct another global vaccine trial.

There are still plenty of questions about what the national vaccination project will look like, the timing of distribution and who might get which version of the two-injection regimen. The vaccine is expected to be administered without charge because the federal government is paying. Washington is coordinating with the states on the rollout, which should begin before the end of the year. It will take months until most Americans are inoculated. Will it be a one-time shot, or every five years? Not yet know. Side effects?

Maybe some temporary flu-like discomfort for some people.

Those are details. The crucial step will be to break through vaccine anxiety, and the best way to do that is for vaccine developers, regulators and experts to share as much information as possible about the COVID-19 vaccine's effectiveness, and about any shortcomings. Its fast development makes some people uneasy. The power of the anti-vaxx movement, based on bogus science, hurts credibility. Members of the Black community harbor distrust that dates at least to the infamous Tuskegee experiment, when Black men in Alabama were left untreated for syphilis as part of a study. Those concerns need to be addressed by the medical establishment and by doctors and nurses speaking frankly to individual patients.

Need reassurance that vaccines work? Diseases like polio and smallpox were eradicated in the United States by vaccines.

Measles disappeared 20 years ago, but it's made a small comeback—because some parents stopped vaccinating their children.

Need a further dose of confidence? Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading authority on infectious diseases, tells USA Today that once the vaccine gets FDA approval, he'll take it and recommend that his family does too. He says COVID-19 can be defeated, and life can begin to return to normal. But only when the overwhelming majority of people are protected by the vaccine and herd immunity kicks in.

"It's kind of dependent upon us," Fauci says.

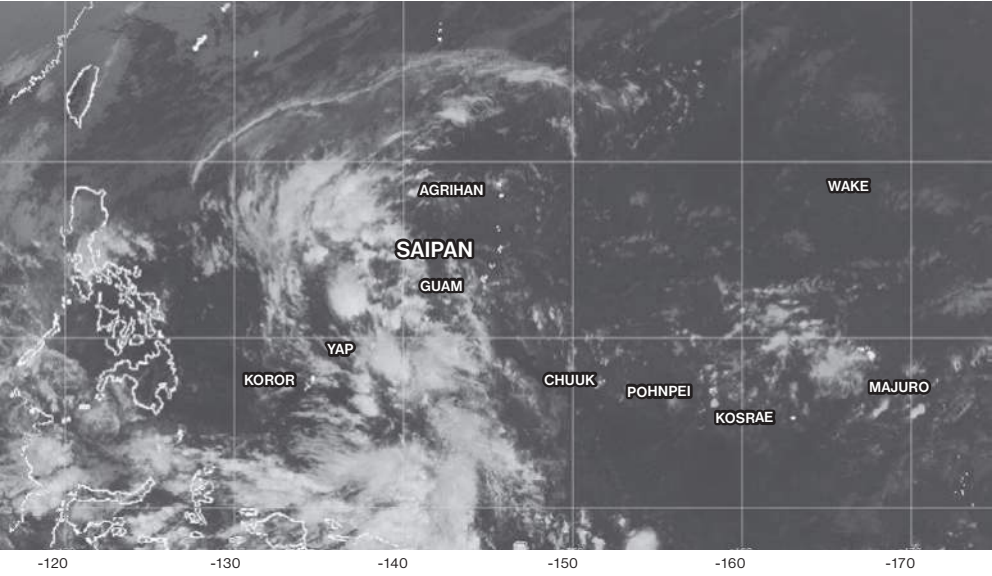
He's right. Prevention is always better than treatment.

The vaccine is coming. Get ready to accept it.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.		Breezy. Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 20 to 25 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:42 AM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The trade-wind disturbance that dumped 1 to 3 inches of rain on Guam yesterday has moved farther west into the Philippine Sea this morning. Convergent fresh trade winds in its wake are still sparking isolated showers and thunderstorms in our area. Buoy at Ritidian is reporting 6 to 7 feet of combined seas, 1 to 2 feet lower than expected due to partial blockage of the easterly trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:27 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:01 AM	5:40 PM
Tuesday	-	6:53 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	-	7:46 AM	7:15 PM
Thursday	-	8:40 AM	8:07 PM
Friday	-	9:32 AM	9:03 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	72° / 61°	
Beijing	Sunny	41° / 19°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°	
Honolulu	Showers	83° / 73°	
London	Mostly Sunny	39° / 36°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 55°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 77°	
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	79° / 57°	
Miami	Showers	80° / 72°	
New York	Cloudy	50° / 46°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	55° / 41°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	41° / 34°	
Busan	Sunny	46° / 32°	
Rome	Showers	55° / 37°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°	
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 48°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	37° / 21°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	46° / 37°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	51° / 45°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:34 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.28	
8:28 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.62	
1:49 PM	LOW TIDE	0.96	
6:49 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.66	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
ROTA TO GUAM				2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)



# Nearly \$1M to boost COVID-19 testing

A newly awarded federal grant of nearly \$1 million will help increase COVID-19 testing among Pacific Islanders in Guam and Hawaii and seek to reveal infection patterns in those populations.

The University of Guam is one of several partners in the “Puipua le Ola” project of the University of Hawaii, funded by the National Institutes of Health, that will be developing and evaluating culturally-tailored community engagement strategies to be disseminated in the native languages of Pacific Islander communities.

“There is a disparity in how COVID-19 is impacting Pacific Islanders, and this grant allows community-based organizations to specifically focus on this group and ultimately reduce the infection and mortality rate through health education and outreach,” said Rachael Leon Guerrero, vice provost of research and sponsored programs at the University of Guam.

Pacific Islanders are defined in the project as indigenous people having origins in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

In Guam, residents originating from other islands in

Micronesia compose 7% of the island’s population but account for 14% of COVID-19 cases. In Hawaii, Pacific Islanders compose 4% of the state’s population but account for nearly 30% of COVID-19 cases and 20% of all COVID-19 deaths.

According to the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Pacific Islanders commonly suffer from certain medical comorbidities known to increase the risk of having severe COVID-19 symptoms. They also tend to have poor access to health care, lack adequate health insurance, live in multi-generational or overcrowded housing, and work in service jobs that increase their daily risk of exposure.

The work in Guam will be led by Teofila P. Cruz, a post-doctoral researcher with the Research Corporation of the University of Guam, a registered nurse, and an adjunct faculty member within UOG’s School of Health.

The grant is part of the National Institutes of Health’s Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics initiative, which is meant to accelerate innovative technologies for COVID-19 testing. A major component of the initiative is the RADx Underserved Populations pro-

gram, which is focused on identifying factors associated with the disproportionately high infection rates and poor outcomes of COVID-19 in underserved and vulnerable populations and reducing related morbidity and mortality rates.

“This will be one of the first NIH-supported projects designed to sustain efforts not only for COVID-19 mitigation among Pacific Islanders, but for achieving the capacity and collective partnerships among Pacific Islanders to reach long-term goals of reducing long-standing health disparities,” said Dr. Richard Yanagihara, a professor at the John A. Burns School of Medicine and one of the principal investigators, along with UH Mānoa’s Angela Sy, Tina Tauasosi-Posiulai, and Dr. Wei-Kung Wang.

Lessons learned from this project will inform similar efforts for Pacific Islander communities and other underserved and vulnerable populations across the nation while expanding the reach of COVID-19 testing efforts, and subsequent COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Hawaii and Guam.

The project is titled “Puipua le Ola,” which is Samoan for “protecting life.” (PR)



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)**  
 Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 057 E 18, Lot 057 E 15 and Lot 057 E 29, containing a total area of approximately 6,603 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. Copies of the location of the parcels are available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.
  - The prospective lessee is A & M Corporation. The list of officers for A & M Corporation are Mrs. Maria S. Palacios, as President, and Mr. Arnold I. Palacios, as Secretary/ Treasurer.
  - The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of A & M Corporation, mainly Mrs. Maria S. Palacios.
  - The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of a operating a Warehouse, Maintenance, Repair Shop, Carpentry Shop, Management Office and other related activities.
- The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.
- The proposed annual rental during the term of each lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL’s regulation.
- A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De’Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp
  - The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.
  - The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 11, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

## NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TANU’ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu’ Pupliku ha nã’inutisia guini put i intension ñani para u nama’atklia palu na tanu’ pupliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas Siha. I manintiresão na petsona siha gi halum pupliku henerat siña muna’ na halum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoniu kinentra gi tinahguin priniponi siha para i atklion tanu’ pupliku. Kumu más mo’ na mapribenijini Lai Pupliku 15-2, i sigienti na pettanesi na imfotmasion ni madimanda ni para u mapupblika.

- I maproponi na atklion tanu’ pupliku madiskribi komu Lot 057 E 18, Lot 057 E 15 yan Lot 057 E 29, ni ha kunsisisti i ñariagiká si guaha 6,603 square meters, más pat menus, ni gaigi gi Lower Base, iya Saipan. I kopian i pumalu managuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu’ Pupliku yan gi website www.dpl.gov.mp para rinikono simientu.
  - The prospective lessee i A & M Corporation. I listan ufiñiát siha para i A & M Corporation si Siñora Maria S. Palacios, komu Presidenti, yan si Siñot Arnold I. Palacios, komu Sekretariu/Tresureru.
  - I maproponi na atklion “compliant” yan i regulasion DPL yan manigosiu ni ufiñiát yan direktot nu i A & M Corporation, mayot menti si Siñora Maria S. Palacios.
  - I lessee debina u usa i lugát para atyu ha’ na rason “operating” i “Warehouse, Maintenance, Repair Shop, Carpentry Shop, Management Office” yan otrua manasosiát na rason.
- I tema nu i maproponi na kuntrá tanat kilon sabenti singku (25) ññus na tiempu.
- I maproponi na atklion gikada’ sákkan gi durántin i temani kuntrá tanat kilon mapegagi pusientus nu ibálin “appraised fair market” i propiedat yan i aplikablina pusientusnu Risibun Hina’ halum Bisnis gi halum regulasion i DPL.
- I kopian i mapropoina kuntrá tanak kilon siña machuli’ gi ufinisan Dipattamentun Tanu’ Pupliku, ni gaigi gi Sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan I JoetenDandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, giprimet (1st) na bibiendani De’Ana Commercial Building, iyaSongsongnasongsong, Luta; pat giprimet (1st) nabibiendan I PM Building, giya Tini’an. I kopia mana guaha lokkui’ gi online gi www.dpl.gov.mp
  - I Dipattamentun Tanu’ Pupliku táya’ ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para u ma’ atklia i masuhetu na tanu’ pupliku gi Lower Base, Saipan.
  - I Sekretarián Dipattamentun Tanu’ Pupliku debina u akseptá tinigi’ upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniu kinentra pat tinahguin priniponi ginin I manintirisão na pattida siha gi pat ántis di Disembre 11, 2020 giufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu’ Pupliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

## ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL POMMWOL ATKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Táilil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mánemángil rebwe atklilaay akkáaw faluweer toulap Ilól Seipél, Commonwealth Téel Falúw kka Efang Ilól Marianas. Schóókka re mwuschel isisilong kkapas, data, views, ngäre angilingi reel pommwol atklilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sáangi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritw ebw eakkatéeewow.

- Pommwol atklilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálóbwe Lot 057 E 18, Lot 057 E 15 me Lot 057 E 29, e lo bwe 6,603 reel square meters, elapeló ngäre eghus, iye e lo Lower Base, Seipél. Pappidil Falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwalwóól website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngäre u mwuschel amwuri.
- Pommwol schóól atklilóón nge A & M Corporation. List-al officers ngáli A & M Corporation nge Mrs. Maria S. Palacios, bwe President, me Mr. Arnold I. Palacios, bwe Sekkretóóriyo/ Treasurer.
- Pommwol atklilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutú DPL me e abwungubwung sáangi officers me directors-il A & M Corporation, spesiatmente Mrs. Maria S. Palacios.
- Schóól atklilóón ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli mwóghutughutú “Warehouse”, “Maintenance”, “Repair Shop”, “Carpentry Shop”, “Management Office” me akkáaw mwóghutughutikka e bwal schuulong.

Pommwol abwungubwungúl atklilóón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Pommwol atklilóónol ghal ráágh ngáligh aleew abwungu bwungúl atklilóónnge e lo reel percentage-il “appraised fair market value” reel falúwfengál me “applicable percentage” reel “Business Gross Receipts” Ilól mwóghutughutú DPL.

- Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl atklilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building Ilól Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De’Ana Commercial Building, Apilómwol Songsong, Luuta’ ngäre 1st floor reel PM Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwalvoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp
- Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye e siiweli falúw iye re apasa me Lower Base, Seipél.
- Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmweli lbweibwogh ischil mánemáng, views, angii ngäre pommiye re siiweli sáangi schóókka re mwuschel wóól ngáremmwali Disembre 11, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngäre Tchiliyól.



EXHIBIT “A”



## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

## Notice of Re-opening of the Distribution of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)-COVID Program Pre-Applications

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) wishes to announce the re-opening of the distribution of pre-applications of the ESG-COVID program made possible through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. As stated on the Office of the Governor’s Press Release, dated July 19, 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the CNMI a total allocation of \$1,090,630 in ESG-COVID funds to provide financial assistance for CNMI households, specifically for rental assistance, rental arrears, utility allowance, and security and utility deposits. The assistance period is for a total of (12) months and will be on a first come, first serve basis. NMHC has allocated 25% of the grant for the elderly and disabled population. The purpose of the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)-COVID program is to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Must be impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic (e.g. furloughed, reduction of hours, living in substandard conditions which poses an increased risk of exposure to the disease, etc.)
- Must be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien
- Must meet the income limits (less than 50% of the area median income). See FY 2020 HUD income limits below
- Must be literally homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless and have no other housing options

### Application Steps

- Pick up a pre-application at the NMHC Offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota or print an application made available on the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net.  
Link: https://nmhc.gov.net/resources/files/2020%20ESG%20Pre-application%20V2%20updated%2006\_29\_20.pdf
- Once the pre-application is completed and submitted to the NMHC Offices (you may submit at the front office or in the Drop Box located in front of the building), the case workers will assess the pre-application and determine whether the applicant is eligible for the program. If the applicant is eligible, the case worker will schedule an appointment and immediately notify the applicant on the date and time of intake. If an applicant is deemed ineligible, a notification will be sent to the applicant.
- The case worker will inform the eligible applicant of the next steps once the application process has been completed.

If you have already applied for the ESG-COVID program, the NMHC case workers are currently assessing your pre-applications and you will be contacted for the next steps. On August 21, 2020, NMHC stopped taking pre-applications in order to conduct the screening of a significant number of pre-applications and also to conduct case management. **NMHC is reopening the pre-application process. You may pick up an HESG pre-application at the NMHC, Saipan Central Office, Rota Field Office, and Tinian Field office starting October 28, 2020. The distribution of pre-applications will end on November 30, 2020.** Should you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact Zenie Mañas, Deputy Corporate Director, Tricia Tenorio, Planner, or Sweetielyn Sokau, Planning Assistant, at the 234-6866/7689/9447.

**NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency”**









# Your happy home starts here.

Build your own bundle and save at [docomopacific.com/link](https://docomopacific.com/link)!




688-CARE | GUAM  
488-CARE | CNMI

docomo pacific   
Better Together










Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-21-001

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE- 2 PROJECT REPLACEMENT OF FLOW METER AND PRESSURE RELEASE VALVE (W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general removal and installation of gate valve assembly, PRV, flow meter, strainer, pressure gauge and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

*This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.*

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **December 3, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-21-001, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project Replacement of Flow Meter and Pressure Release Valve”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 22, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 7, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Mr. Edgar Tuazon, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email [edgar.tuazon@cucgov.org](mailto:edgar.tuazon@cucgov.org) and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Technician Senior via email - [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

# Business

## Docomo debuts iPhone 12

**TAMUNING, Guam**—Docomo Pacific, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, has launched the Apple iPhone 12 in the Marianas.

The iPhone 12 is Apple's first 5G capable device. Docomo Pacific has the only 5G network in the Marianas and will be able to deliver 5G speeds to iPhone 12 owners very early in 2021.

Docomo Pacific customers can finance the new iPhones in two affordable ways; installment plans and trade-in. The NOW program, enables well-qualified buyers to pay in monthly install-

ments with no upfront costs. With NOW, customers can avail of the popular ACCESS mobile rate plans which provide endless data on the apps they use most!

Our customers can also trade-in! Eligible trade-ins receive up to \$555 off the purchase of a new handset.

For more details on pricing, data plans, and offers exclusive to Docomo Pacific customers, please visit [www.docomopacific.com](http://www.docomopacific.com) or schedule a store visit by visiting the Skiplino app.

Docomo Pacific is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT DCOMO, Japan's leading mobile operator. Headquartered

in Tamuning, Guam, Docomo Pacific is the largest provider of personal, residential, enterprise connectivity and entertainment services in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Named Guam's most reliable network, based on GWS' 2019 OneScore ranking, Docomo Pacific is also the four-time winner of Pika's Best of Guam and four-time winner of Best of The Pacific. Docomo Pacific is dedicated to bringing you and your family closer to the things that matter most. Get to know more about what makes us "Better Together" at [www.docomopacific.com](http://www.docomopacific.com). **(PR)**

## Black Friday sees record online as US shoppers stay home

Black Friday online sales hit a new record this year as pandemic-wary Americans filled virtual carts instead of real ones.

Consumers spent an estimated \$9 billion on U.S. retail websites on Black Friday, according to Adobe Analytics, which tracks online shopping. That was a 22% increase over the previous record of \$7.4 billion set in 2019.


Meanwhile, traffic to physical stores plummeted as retailers tried to prevent crowds by

cutting their hours and limiting doorbuster deals. U.S. store visits dropped by 52% on Black Friday, according to Sensormatic Solutions, a retail tracker. Traffic was slower in the Northeast and West than in the Midwest and South, said Brian Field, Sensormatic's senior director of global retail consulting.


Jewelry and footwear saw some of the biggest in-person sales declines, according to RetailNext, a shopping tracker. Apparel sales were down

50%, while sales of home goods fell by 39%.

Even with that drop, Black Friday will still likely end up as one of the biggest in-person shopping days in the U.S. this year, Field said. He thinks many people will still shop for the holidays in person, but will choose mid-week days when crowds are smaller. Heavier in-store discounts and concerns about lengthy shipping times could also draw shoppers closer to Christmas. **(AP)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 010

Opening Date: November 19, 2020 • Closing Date: December 4, 2020

POSITION TITLE:  
DEPARTMENT:  
LOCATION:  
ANNUAL SALARY:  
CONTRACT:  
POSITION(S):

Public Information Officer  
Administration Office  
Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA  
\$42,411.00 - \$57,255.00 per annum, Exempt  
Contracted  
One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

**Duties:**

- Serves as a liaison between CUC, the media and the public; plans, coordinates and disseminates public information utilizing various forms of communication in an effort to educate and promote the organization's projects and activities.
- Prepares copy of news releases; content for the CUC website; articles; newsletters; reports and creates various collateral materials.
- Develops and coordinates public outreach programs; researches and identifies outreach needs and recommends communication methods for the provision of information.
- Received and responds to inquiries from the public, internal departments, and other agencies as well as coordinating with CUC Call center, may serve as representative at public meetings to address questions or issues, and to provide community updates.
- Designs and implements public information campaigns, events and programs; determines campaign or program goals and expected outcomes; plans, coordinates and prepares materials and activities to meet goals and objectives.
- Researches, gathers and maintains information and communication materials and archives.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**Minimum Requirements:**

**Education:** Bachelor Degree in Journalism, Public Administration or related field and 4 years of related public information experience. Proficiency in multiple languages (such as legally recognized language in the CNMI: English, Chamorro and Carolinian) is a plus.

**Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth State and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Public relations principles and techniques; Communication methods; Media relations principles, Customer relations principles; Modern Office Technology.


**Skills in:** Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, codes, rules, regulations and standards; serving as a public information liaison and representative to the community; Planning, coordinating and disseminating public information; Determining information needs and promoting and educating the public; Preparing news releases, communications content, articles and collateral materials; Listening and responding to inquiries and effectively conveying information; Utilizing critical thinking and social perception to identify issues; Researching and preparing recommendations and responses; Designing and implementing programs and events; Measuring effectiveness of program delivery for future enhancements; Gathering and maintaining communication materials and information; utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public and other to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- Licensing:**
  - Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.


All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: [employment.applications@cucgov.org](mailto:employment.applications@cucgov.org)

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 009

Opening Date: November 18, 2020 • Closing Date: December 2, 2020

POSITION TITLE:  
DEPARTMENT:  
LOCATION:  
ANNUAL SALARY:  
CONTRACT:  
POSITION(S):

Engineer, Senior (Diesel Power Plant)  
Power Generation  
Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA  
\$45,326.00 - \$61,190.00 per annum, Exempt  
Contracted  
One (1)

The Engineer Senior is distinguished by his/her ability to view the engineer designs and projects. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee.

**Duties:**

- The Engineer Senior position will have accountability and responsibility dedicated to supervising the engineering functions in the Power Plant, Focus on the application of technical skills required in the analysis and reporting of plant electrical equipment and related systems, Maintain equipment and machinery within the standard operating conditions and evaluate performance as needed per Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) recommendations, Oversee operation, maintenance and repairs of plan equipment and auxiliaries to ensure adherence within applicable specification and OEM standard.
- Compiling running hours and preventive maintenance performed of each engine/equipment and machinery and prepare preventive maintenance scheduling.
- Prepare engineering design calculations, engineering drawings, utilizing programs and Computer Aided Design (CAD).
- Prepare a variety of engineering monthly reports and correspondence.
- Perform equipment failure analysis of equipment/machinery/auxiliaries and prepare incident reports.
- Compiling data and preparing regulatory reports; operate and maintain complex instrumentation, equipment and/or testing equipment; Troubleshooting complex maintenance and operational problems; Diagnose and perform mechanical failure analysis and provide recommendation to prevent recurrence.
- Supervise other Trades staff including assisting in the performance evaluations and coordinating training; Ensures that employees follow policies and procedures and maintain a healthy and safe working environment; Prepare schedule of activities or special projects and ensures necessary parts, materials and tools are available; Provides technical advice, support and guidance to staff, other CUC department and other agencies; Performs technical design on mechanical system; Performs inventory and supply checks of tools, equipment, parts and materials; Identifies resource needs and processes requisitions.
- Ensures availability of resources to meet project and operational needs; Gathers and compiles data's, prepares and maintains regulatory and status reporting; Performs inspections of projects and operations; Ensures policies and procedures are adhered to, and that service quality and productivity levels are maintained; Processing requisitions to meet resource needs for projects and operations.
- Preparing and maintaining regulatory, status reports and related documentation.
- Attends to trouble calls after normal hours; Practices SAFETY; Cleans, organizes and maintains work areas.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**Minimum Requirements:**

**Education:** Bachelor Degree in Engineering and four (4) years of general professional, engineering experience.

**Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Engineering Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area. Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Engineering Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area. Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

**Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards. Monitoring, evaluating, prioritizing and assigning specific duties to staff. Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation. Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals. Preparing specifications plans, and cost estimates. Performing and overseeing skilled journey level maintenance, operations and installation. Performing inspections of projects and operations to ensure quality and productivity levels. Ensuring the adherence to policies and procedures. Troubleshooting complex maintenance and operational issues. Recommending and implementing solutions. Utilizing CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications. Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- Licensing:**
  - Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- Physical Demands:**
  - Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: [employment.applications@cucgov.org](mailto:employment.applications@cucgov.org)

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



# Nation

## Biden seeks unity as Trump stokes fading embers of campaign

**WILMINGTON, Del.** (AP)—On a day of grace and grievance, President-elect Joe Biden summoned Americans to join in common purpose against the coronavirus pandemic and their political divisions while the man he will

replace stoked the fading embers of his campaign to “turn the election over.”

Biden, in a Thanksgiving-eve address to the nation, put the surging pandemic front and center, pledging to tap the “vast powers” of the federal

government and to “change the course of the disease” once in office. But for that to work, he said, Americans must step up for their own safety and that of their fellow citizens.

“I know the country has grown weary of the fight,”

Biden said Wednesday. “We need to remember we’re at war with the virus, not with one another. Not with each other.”

President Donald Trump, who has scarcely mentioned the pandemic in recent days even as it has achieved record

heights, remained fixated on his election defeat.

He sent his lawyer Rudy Giuliani and other members of his legal team to meet Pennsylvania Republican state senators in Gettysburg. Inside a hotel near the hallowed battlefields of civil war, they again aired complaints about the election and repeated allegations of Democratic

missed the Trump campaign’s accusations as baseless, and the transition to Biden’s presidency is fully underway.

Nevertheless, Trump repeated: “This election has to be turned around.”

Trump had been expected to appear in person in Gettysburg, but did not after another member of his legal team tested positive for the coronavirus.

Few at the meeting wore masks.

Altogether, the forum heard — and cheered — yet another declaration from a U.S. president seeking to reverse a democratic election and the voters’ will because he wants to stay in power. The setting was about a mile from the scene of Pickett’s Charge, where Union troops repelled a desperate Confederate attack in July 1863 and helped turn the tide of the Civil War.



Biden

## Tony Hsieh, retired Zappos CEO, dies at 46 after house fire

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—Tony Hsieh, the retired CEO of Las Vegas-based online shoe retailer Zappos.com, who spent years working to transform the city’s downtown area, has died. He was 46.

Hsieh was with family when he died Friday, according to DTP Companies, which he founded. He died of injuries suffered in a Nov. 18 fire in New London, Connecticut, Downtown Partnership spokesperson Megan Fazio told Hearst Connecticut Media on Saturday.

The Day newspaper re-

ported the day of the fire that one person had been removed from a waterfront home in New London with possible burns and smoke inhalation. The person, whose name authorities did not release, was eventually taken to Bridgeport Hospital, which has a burn center.

Fire Chief Thomas Curcio was quoted by The Day as saying that crews arrived around 3:30 a.m. after a report of someone trapped in part of the house, that firefighters had to force their way in, and that they removed the victim, per-

formed CPR and took him to a hospital.

Hsieh recently retired from Zappos after 20 years leading the company. The online shoe retailer shared a tribute on social media late Friday.

“The world has lost a tremendous visionary and an incredible human being,” the statement said. “His spirit will forever be a part of Zappos.”

Hsieh was a Harvard University graduate who joined the company — then called ShoeSite.com — in 1999. Zappos was sold to Amazon for \$1.2 billion in 2009, but Hsieh had remained with the

company until his retirement.

“Tony’s kindness and generosity touched the lives of everyone around him, and forever brightened the world,” a DTP Companies statement said. “Delivering happiness was always his mantra, so instead of mourning his transition, we ask you to join us in celebrating his life.”

For years, Hsieh also worked to revitalize downtown Las Vegas, pledging \$350 million in 2013 for redevelopment. The same year he moved Zappos’ headquarters into the former Las Vegas City Hall building.

**Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation**  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**RFP21-CHCC/BUSINESS OFFICE-001**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 16, 2020 • TIME:10:00AM (CHST)**

**“CASH TRANSIT SERVICES”**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA  
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**RFP21-CHCC/PH-NCDB-001**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 23, 2020 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)**

**“NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BUREAU (NCDB) WEBSITE”**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA  
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
**RFP21-CHCC/CGC-DRP-001**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 23, 2020 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)**

**“OFFICE LEASE”**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA  
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
Early Childhood Program

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In accordance with the “Open Government Act”, the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its ICC meeting on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, 9:00 am to 11 am, meeting link will be provided. This meeting is open to the public; interested individuals are welcome to attend.

**AGENDA**

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes
- Program Updates
- Open Discussion
- Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 237-3029/19. Several days; notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Jennifer E. Castro  
Vice-Chairwoman

/s/ Robin L. Palacios  
Director, Early Intervention Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part C Funds.

**Northern Marianas Humanities Council**  
*Navigating the Human Experience*

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
**Chamorro-English, Carolinian-English Translation Services**

Interested parties can access more details for this RFP at [www.nmhcouncil.org](http://www.nmhcouncil.org).

Submission Deadline: December 14, 2020

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp)  
Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**  
*(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)*  
**NMHC RFP 2021-003**

**BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: December 4, 2020, 10:00 a.m.**

**Lease of Office Space for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program**

The Request for Proposal and Scope of Work will be available on November 20, 2020 at the NMHC website at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) by clicking on the “Procurement Tab”.

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing or email to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net) or submitted by facsimile to (670)234-9021 no later than 10:00 AM local time on November 25, 2020.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net) during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

/s/ Frank Lee Borja  
Acting Chairman  
NMHC Board of Directors

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**RFP21-CHCC/FINANCE-001**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 22, 2020 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)**

**“SINGLE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING 2019, 2020 & 2021”**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA  
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



# World

## Iran's supreme leader vows revenge over slain scientist

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's supreme leader on Saturday demanded the "definitive punishment" of those behind the killing of a scientist who led Tehran's disbanded military nuclear program, as the Islamic Republic blamed Israel for a slaying that has raised fears of reignited tensions across the Middle East.

After years of being in the shadows, the image of Mohsen Fakhriadeh suddenly was to be seen everywhere

in Iranian media, as his widow spoke on state television and officials publicly demanded revenge on Israel for the scientist's slaying.

Israel, long suspected of killing Iranian scientists a decade ago amid earlier tensions over Tehran's nuclear program, has yet to comment on Fakhriadeh's killing Friday. However, the attack bore the hallmarks of a carefully planned, military-style ambush, the likes of which Israel

has been accused of conducting before.

The attack has renewed fears of Iran striking back against the U.S., Israel's closest ally in the region, as it did earlier this year when a U.S. drone strike killed a top Iranian general. The U.S. military acknowledged moving an aircraft carrier back into the region, while an Iranian lawmaker suggested throwing out U.N. nuclear inspectors in response to the killing.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called Fakhriadeh "the country's prominent and distinguished nuclear and defensive scientist." Khamenei, who has the final say on all matters of state, said Iran's first priority after the killing was the "definitive punishment of the perpetrators and those who ordered it." He did not elaborate.

Speaking earlier Saturday, President Hassan Rouhani blamed Israel for the killing.

"We will respond to the assassination of Martyr Fakhriadeh in a proper time," Rouhani said. "The Iranian nation is smarter than falling into the trap of the Zionists. They are thinking to create chaos."

The United Nations called for restraint.

"Of course we condemn any assassination or extra-judicial killing," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. "We urge restraint and the need to avoid any actions that could lead to an escalation of tensions in the region."

Both Rouhani and Khamenei said Fakhriadeh's death would not stop the nuclear program. Iran's civilian atomic program has continued its experiments and now enriches a growing uranium stockpile up to 4.5% purity in response to the collapse of Iran's nuclear deal after the U.S.' 2018 withdrawal from the accord.

That's still far below weapons-grade levels of 90%, though experts warn Iran now has enough low-enriched uranium for at least two atomic bombs if it chose to pursue them.

Analysts have compared Fakhriadeh to being on par with Robert Oppenheimer, the scientist who led America's Manhattan Project in World War II that created the atom bomb.

Fakhriadeh headed Iran's so-called AMAD program that Israel and the West have alleged was a military operation looking at the feasibility of building a nuclear weapon. The International Atomic Energy Agency says that "structured program" ended in 2003. Iran long has maintained its nuclear program is peaceful.

Fakhriadeh's widow appeared unnamed on state television in a black chador, saying his death would spark a thousand others to take up his work.

## Ethiopia declares victory as military takes Tigray capital

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Ethiopia's military has gained "full control" of the capital of the defiant Tigray region, the army announced Saturday, and the prime minister said the taking of Mekele marked the "completion" of an offensive that started nearly four weeks ago. The regional government said the city of a half-million people was "heavily bombarded" in the final push to arrest its leaders.

"God bless Ethiopia and its people!" Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said in a statement.

"We have entered Mekele without innocent civilians being targets."

Now, he said, police will pursue the leaders of the Tigray People's Liberation Front, who run the region and dominated Ethiopia's ruling coalition before Abiy came to power in 2018 and sidelined them among the sweeping reforms that won him the Nobel Peace Prize.

Abiy's government has accused the TPLF of inciting unrest and seeking to reclaim power, and each government

now regards the other as illegal. The prime minister has rejected dialogue with TPLF leaders, including during a Friday meeting with three African Union special envoys.

As Abiy spoke of "returning normalcy" to the Tigray region, one of his ministers told The Associated Press in a phone interview "there is no way" the search for the TPLF leaders will take weeks.

The minister in charge of democratization, Zadiq Abirha, also said the Ethiopian government doesn't yet know

the number of people killed in the conflict.

"We have kept the civilian casualty very low," he asserted. Humanitarians and human rights groups have reported several hundred dead, including combatants.

Some Ethiopians at home and in the diaspora rejoiced at the news that Mekele was under the military's control. "Thanks to the Almighty God our creator. Amen. Let peace prevail in Ethiopia!!!" former Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn tweeted.

## N. Korea toughens rules of entry to sea to fight virus

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea is further toughening restrictions on entering seawaters as part of elevated steps to fight the coronavirus pandemic, state media said Sunday, two days after South Korea said the North had banned sea fishing.

The Korean Central News Agency reported the country is mobilizing more anti-virus units and establishing strong steps to "completely remove uncivilized and unhygienic elements that could help make room for the spread of an epidemic" at winter. Some experts say the coronavirus can spread more broadly during cold weather when people typically spend more time indoors.

KCNA said officials were building firm anti-epidemic measures along border areas to prevent the coronavirus from entering the country. In front-line coastal areas, authorities were working out more stringent rules for venturing out at sea and collecting filthy materials in the waters, according to KCNA.

North Korea has maintained no single virus case has been found on its territory, a claim widely questioned by outside experts. Despite its claim, North Korea has swiftly sealed its borders, flew out diplomats and isolated residents with symptoms. A major outbreak in North Korea could have devastating consequences be-

cause of its broken health care system and a chronic lack of medicines.

North Korea has previously mentioned a restriction on entering the sea. Sunday's report came after South Korea's spy service told lawmakers Friday that the North's anti-virus steps included a ban on fishing and salt production, as well as and the lockdown of the capital, Pyongyang, northern Jagang province and other areas.

Lawmakers who attended Friday's closed-door briefing also cited the National Intelligence Service as saying that North Korea executed an official for breaching regulations restricting the import of goods in August and a money changer for a falling exchange in October.

Ha Tae-keung, one of the lawmakers, quoted the agency as saying North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is displaying "excessive anger" and taking "irrational measures" over the pandemic and its economic impact.

In September, South Korea accused North Korea of fatally shooting a South Korean fishery official found in the North's waters before burning his body apparently in line with an anti-virus policy that involves shooting anyone illegally crossing the border. North Korea later acknowledged and apologized for the killing, but claimed it only burnt his floating device, not his body.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

† *Matilde Iglecias Sablan Diaz*

Born to Life on March 14, 1947    Born to Eternal Life on December 9, 2019



We, the family of the late Matilde Sablan Diaz would like to invite all relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the first year anniversary of her call to eternal life.

Daily mass will be celebrated every 6:00PM at San Jose Church beginning December 1 through December 9, 2020 except on Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 7:00AM.

On the final day, rosary will be said at 5:30PM and follow by Eucharistic Mass at 6:00PM. Please join us as we remember her in our prayers.



Un Dangkulo  
Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.



Norbert, Edwin, Jennie  
Adriana and Family.



# Health & Wellness

This advertorial  
is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin  
Foundation

## Link between extra pounds, severe covid-19 illness grows stronger

Try to get in a little activity every day. That doesn't have to mean going to the gym and could be as simple as taking a walk.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has expanded its coronavirus risk warning to include people who are considered overweight. Obesity and severe obesity have been included on the CDC's list of conditions that put people at increased risk of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19. However, now, the CDC is saying adults of any age who are simply overweight might be at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Dr. Donald Hensrud, director of the Mayo Clinic Healthy Living Program, explains why obesity, with its complications, increases the risk of COVID-19 exponentially.

"Obesity by itself is associated with a number of complications: diabetes, high blood pressure, dyslipidemia and heart disease. That was all present before COVID-19. In addition, over two-thirds of the popula-

tion is overweight or obese," says Dr. Hensrud. "Now COVID-19 comes along, and we've got all the issues we had before plus some additional ones. Obesity is associated with low-grade inflammation and an effect on our immune system. This affects our susceptibility to COVID-19. People who are obese are more likely to develop COVID-19 and complications from it, including dying, than people who aren't obese. In addition, people with diabetes and some of the other complications from obesity are also at increased risk. So obesity and its complications independently take the risks of COVID-19 and elevate them significantly."

The definition of overweight is having a body mass index (BMI) between 25 and 29.9. A BMI of 30 or greater is classified as obese.

Dr. Hensrud says it's been interesting seeing the variability of how the

caused increased weight gain and contributed to obesity," says Dr. Hensrud. "On the other hand, I've had patients who've lost weight. They're eating out less. They're cooking more at home. They're eating healthfully. They're trying to get in some activity, and, so, they've lost weight. The variability of how this has affected people is really wide."

Dr. Hensrud says it takes a little time, planning and effort, but there are several things people can do to manage their weight and improve their health to maximize their chances if they become infected with COVID-19:

Try to get in a little activity every day. That doesn't have to mean going to the gym and could be as simple as taking a walk.

For those working from home, try to take breaks every 30 minutes to move, whether that movement is stretching or walking around.

Make healthy food choices, wheth-



Make healthy food choices, whether it's takeout or cooking at home.

COVID-19 pandemic has affected people's eating habits.

"I've had patients who have gained

a lot of weight because they're less active. They're eating comfort food. They're stressed out. And all this has

er it's takeout or cooking at home.

While improving health in these ways is important, Dr. Hensrud stresses making small changes and not going to extremes.

"We know that before COVID-19, New Year's resolutions, for example, people try and do something with exercise that they haven't done in years, and it doesn't work. Similarly now, I think we have to be realistic about what they can do. In fact, losing too much weight, if people lose more than 10% of their body weight in six months, that can adversely affect immune function. It's important to do what we can to improve health but not go to extremes," says Dr. Hensrud. (*Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS*)

## You should probably replace some of your fabric face masks

By GRACE DICKINSON  
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

If your masks are beginning to feel as old as this pandemic, it's probably time to get yourself some new ones.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises using masks that have at least two layers of tightly woven, washable, breathable fabric, such as cotton. When you wash your masks regularly, which you're supposed to do, the fabric, as well as the fit, can begin to deteriorate. As this happens, your masks become less effective.

"A newer, fresher mask is likely to have tighter fibers, and so it's likely better at keeping out other particles and keeping your particles in," says Krys Johnson, an epidemiologist and assis-

tant professor at Temple University.

The exact timeline of when you need to replace a mask depends on the makeup of the mask, along with other factors like how much you're washing it, and how often you're taking it on and off.

But as a general rule of thumb: "Think about masks like seasonal attire. Update every season," says Johnson.

Here's how else to know if you should replace a mask.

A snug fit is key. If the elastic of your ear loops starts to loosen, it's time to reach for something tighter.

That's a bad sign, says Johnson, and may indicate that the fabric is deteriorating, or was too thin from the start.

A mask needs to cover your nose



and mouth in order to work. If one of the straps falls off and you have to keep touching your mask to keep it in place, this defeats its purpose.

This is perhaps the most obvious sign of all. If your mask is ripped, it needs to go. It doesn't matter how small or large the hole is.

Experts strongly recommend owning more than one mask. And in the winter, you'll want to carry a backup. Moving from chilly outdoor environments into cozy indoor settings makes it easy to sweat through your mask, as does wearing multiple layers. You're advised to always swap a wet mask for a dry one. A wet mask can make it harder to breathe. And of course it's uncomfortable, especially if you're walking back outside into cold temps.

When in doubt, replace it, says Johnson. We want to eliminate risk as much as possible right now, and proper mask wearing is part of that.

If you have a disposable face mask, the CDC advises throwing it away after you've worn it once.

### HEALTHY LIVING

#### Drinking to women's health

One study suggests that the antioxidants in tea may reduce a woman's risk of ovarian cancer.

#### A cup, or two or three

1 cup daily  
**24% lower risk\***

2 or more  
**46% lower**

\*Than women  
who drank no tea

Source:  
Karolinska  
Institute, TNS  
Photo Service





# Life & Style

## Disney to lay off 4,000 more employees amid pandemic

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The Walt Disney Co. announced plans to lay off 4,000 more employees largely due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The announcement by the company was made in a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filing earlier this week, saying 32,000 employees at the parks, experiences and products division will be

terminated in the first half of fiscal year 2021, which began last month.

In late September, the company had already announced plans to terminate 28,000 theme park workers. The company did not say how many of the additional 4,000 employees work at the California or Florida theme parks.

In the SEC document filed

on the eve of Thanksgiving Day, the company said it also put 37,000 employees not scheduled for termination on furlough as a result of the pandemic.

"Due to the current climate, including COVID-19 impacts, and changing environment in which we are operating, the company has generated efficiencies in its staffing, including limiting hiring to critical

business roles, furloughs and reductions-in-force," the document said.

The company also said they may make more cuts in spending such as reducing film and television content investments and additional furloughs and layoffs.

In Florida, the company has been limiting attendance at its parks and changing protocols to allow for social distancing

by limiting characters' meet and greets.

Disney's parks closed in March as the pandemic started spreading in the U.S. The

Florida parks reopened in the summer, but the California parks have yet to reopen pending state and local government approvals.

## Artists say Cuba government agrees to dialogue, tolerance

HAVANA (AP)—A group of Cuban artists and intellectuals say they won an unusual government vow of greater tolerance for independent art on Saturday after a demonstration in front of the Culture Ministry.

About 20 artists had gathered Friday and the crowd grew to 200 by late night, when Vice Minister Fernando Rojas and the directors of several associations affiliated with the governing Communist Party met with delegates of the demonstrators until after midnight.

The officials agreed to talks

on "an agenda of multiple topics with proposals by both sides," said writer Katherine Bisquet. In addition, "We will be able to meet without being harassed in independent spaces. There is a truce for independent spaces."

The demonstration, and official willingness to deal with the participants is unusual in a country whose government historically has had little tolerance for open protest, tends to label dissenters as tools of its enemies abroad and has arrested hundreds of them.

## Champion Ken Jennings will be first interim 'Jeopardy!' host

NEW YORK (AP)—"Jeopardy!" record-holder Ken Jennings will be the first in a series of interim hosts replacing Alex Trebek when the show resumes production next Monday.

Producers announced Monday that Jennings, who won 74 games in a row and claimed the show's "Greatest of All Time" title in a competition last year, will host episodes that air in January.

A long-term host to replace Trebek, who died of cancer on Nov. 8, will be named later.

"By bringing in familiar guest hosts for the foreseeable future, our goal is to create a sense of community and con-

tinuity for our viewers," the show's executive producer, Mike Richards, said.

The show is in its 37th year of syndication. It is still airing shows that Trebek filmed before his death.

Art Fleming hosted earlier editions of the game show, including the original "Jeopardy!" that debuted in 1964 on NBC and aired for a decade.

Richards said "Jeopardy!" will air repeat episodes for the holiday weeks beginning Dec. 21 and 28, meaning Trebek's final week of shows will air starting Monday, Jan. 4.

Jennings' episodes begin on Jan. 11.

## Cher in Pakistan for resettlement of 'loneliest elephant'

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Iconic singer and actress Cher is in Pakistan to celebrate the departure of Kaavan, dubbed the "world's loneliest elephant," who will soon leave a Pakistani zoo for better conditions after years of lobbying by animal rights groups and activists.

Because of security concerns, Cher's schedule was not made public. However, she met Friday with Prime Minister Imran Khan and was expected to visit Kaavan later in the trip, according to the prime minister's office. Khan's office released a video of the singer sitting with the prime minister outside on the expansive grounds of Khan's residence.

Kaavan is set to leave for a sanctuary in Cambodia on Sunday, said Martin Bauer, spokesman for Four Paws International, a global animal welfare group that's led the charge to save Kaavan since 2016.

The animal has languished in the zoo for 35 years, most of those years in chains, and lost his partner in 2012. She died after an infection turned gangrenous and her body lay beside Kaavan for several days before being removed, said



An elephant named "Kaavan," who waiting to be transported to a sanctuary in Cambodia, walks at the Maragzar Zoo in Islamabad, Pakistan, Friday, Nov. 27, 2020.

Dr. Amir Khalil, veterinarian with Four Paws. Khalil said Kaavan was heartbroken after his partner died.

Activists dubbed Kaavan the "world's loneliest elephant" after his plight gained international attention and the unhappy elephant was diagnosed as emotionally as well as physically damaged.

Khalil has treated the elephant's many wounds and ailments over the past three months. Kaavan has been diag-

nosed by veterinarians as both overweight and malnourished, and also suffers behavioral issues due to his isolation.

Cher took up Kaavan's cause and has been a loud voice advocating for his resettlement. Four Paws, which often carries out animal rescue missions, will accompany Kaavan to the sanctuary.

In a tweet following her meeting with Pakistan's prime minister, Cher said she thanked Khan "for making it possible for

me to take Kaavan to Cambodia." She tweeted she was making a documentary on Kaavan and said, "think documentary will be heartwarming."

Even after he's in Cambodia, Kaavan will require years of physical and even psychological assistance, Bauer said.

Because of the abysmal living conditions blamed on systemic negligence, Pakistan's high court in May ordered the closure of Marghar Zoo in the capital of Islamabad, where Kaavan has lived for much of his life.

A medical examination in September showed Kaavan's nails were cracked and overgrown—the result of years of living in an improper enclosure with flooring that damaged his feet.

The elephant has also developed behaviors including shaking his head back and forth for hours, which the medical team of wildlife veterinarians and experts blamed on his utter boredom.

For the past three months, a Four Paws team including veterinarian Khalil and the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board have been readying Kaavan to leave.

## Coin collector is blindsided by wife's sale of gold piece

DEAR ABBY: My wife recently came back from a gold/silver/coin merchandiser event and told me she had sold an old U.S. \$5 gold piece (for probably less than it was worth). I was hurt, not only because I have a coin collection and would have been interested in knowing about and seeing the coin, but also because she didn't seem to understand how disappointed and hurt I was. She gleefully announced she was going to use the proceeds to purchase an exercise bike.

I took a two-hour walk to work off my feelings and then skipped dinner because I had lost my appetite. Sometimes I feel that my feelings don't matter to her—that it's "her way or the highway." Should I let this incident go and move on, or is a long "crucial conversation" called for?

DISCOUNTED IN OHIO

DEAR DISCOUNTED: Of course you should discuss this with your wife. That coin was only a thing. The fact that the coin was sold without first consulting you is less important than your statement that sometimes you think your feelings don't matter to her.

A key factor in successful marriages is the ability to discuss difficult subjects calmly. Your ability to relate to each other appears to need improvement. If you cannot work this out between the two of you, a licensed therapist may be able to help.

DEAR ABBY: I was at the zoo with my daughter enjoying an ice cream cone. At the next table over, a man was berating his daughter, yelling at her for saying no to his girlfriend. He said things like, "I'm going to bust your butt so hard you won't sit for a week," and he kept glaring at her like she was the worst creature on the planet. It was hard to sit there watching a dad verbally and emotionally abuse an innocent 4-year-old. Is there anything I could have done?

HELPLESS IN UTAH

DEAR HELPLESS: You might have attempted to distract the father by saying something to him to the effect that parenting can be frustrating at times, which might have interrupted his rant. But beyond that there was nothing you could do to intervene. What a shame. Berating and threatening his little girl won't cause her to like or accept the girlfriend. Quite the opposite, in fact.

DEAR ABBY: I recently married a wonderful lady who has three adult children. Her kids are great, but they have one habit that kind of bothers me. They address their mother by her first name, never as Mom or Mother. I feel it shows a lack of respect. I have thought about saying something to them about it, but I don't want to make a big deal out of it. What do you think?

MR. TRADITIONAL IN MISSOURI

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR MR. T.: I'm glad you have resisted the urge to render a judgment upon the way your wife's children address her—and probably have since they were quite young. People show respect for each other in the way they treat each other. What they call each other is their own business. If your wife is happy and has a good relationship with her children, keep your opinion to yourself.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

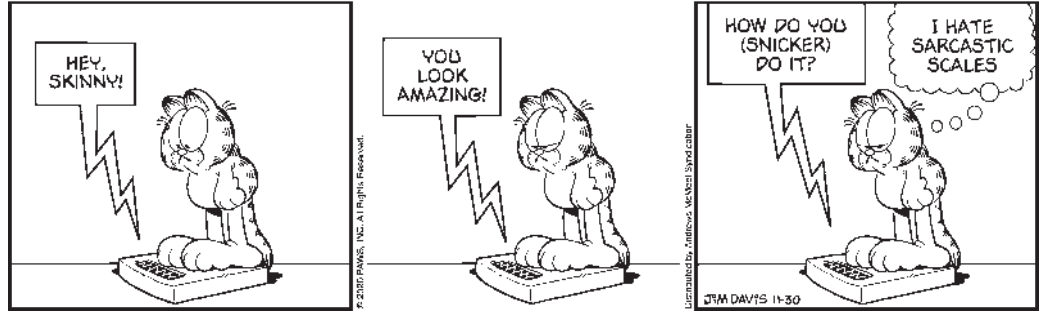
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



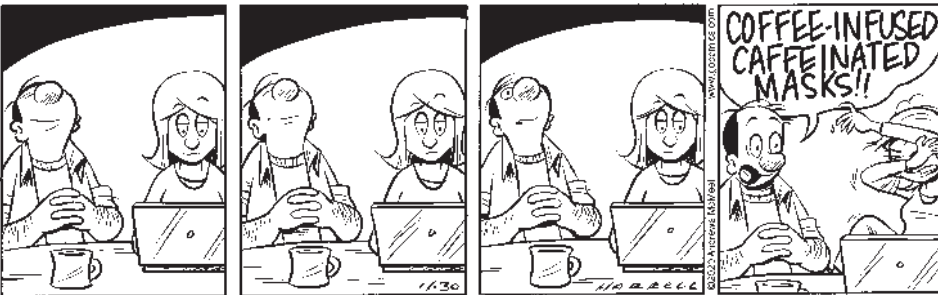
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Mr. Guinness  
5 Norm (Abbr.)  
8 Excellent, in slang  
12 "Love —" (Beatles song)  
13 Motorist's org.  
14 Impetuous  
15 Tied  
16 Minor tooth pain, maybe  
18 Freed of suds  
20 New York player  
21 Web addresses  
23 High school subj.  
24 In math class, they're empty  
28 Winds up  
31 Santa — winds  
32 Continental cash  
34 Overly  
35 Funny Fey

**DOWN**

1 From the U.S.  
2 Jeans maker  
3 Genesis garden  
4 Roman magistrate  
5 Get ready to ride a horse  
6 Sigma follower  
7 Emmy-winning Tyne  
8 Strut  
9 Access illegally, as a  
10 Tennis legend  
11 Quaker pronoun  
17 Vegas lead-in  
19 Gaelic banjo  
22 Play the Cole  
24 — King  
25 Numerical prefix  
26 Round Table knight  
27 Fused together  
29 Part of DJIA  
30 Junior  
33 Slender Smiths  
36 Granny  
38 Haggle  
40 Mil. address  
42 Urban haze  
43 Tooth-paste holder  
44 Author Hunter  
46 Big name in scat  
47 Morays  
48 Leak out slowly  
50 Ram's mate

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

B	A	M	E	M	A	A	J	A	R
A	M	A	D	I	A	L	B	O	L
R	A	V	K	I	N	G	S	B	E
S	T	N	T	S	O	D	E		
		E	E	K	R	O	Y	A	L
C	O	U	L	D	L	A	G	V	I
H	A	L	T	R	O	N	H	E	M
A	H	A	V	A	T	B	A	R	O
T	U	N	E	I	N	T	A	I	
		R	I	C	I	H	K	I	N
S	U	M	O	T	O	N	D	U	R
P	L	A	N	C	P	G	O	A	T
A	T	T	V	S	T	E	T	S	O

Last Friday's Answer 11/30

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Kaley Cuoco, 35; Elisha Cuthbert, 38; Ben Stiller, 55; Billy Idol, 65.

**Happy Birthday:** Revisit what's taken place, and start making adjustments that will help you get back on track or change your direction to suit your lifestyle and needs. Focus on what's important to you and the people you know you can trust. Personal improvements will motivate you to set higher goals. Believe in yourself, not someone else. Your numbers are 8, 15, 23, 26, 32, 38, 44.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Size up your financial situation, and make plans that will help you improve your life. A change of pace will allow you to spend more time learning about or pursuing something that can turn into a financial game changer. \*\*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** An unexpected change will push you in a healthier direction. Spending more time with someone who is active or inspires you to exercise and eat properly will lead to friendship. A unique offer may entice you, but buying into the hype isn't favored. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Do all you can for a cause you believe in, and you'll meet people who share your concerns. Working alongside others will lead to opportunities and a partnership that is energetic and full of surprises. Make honesty and integrity priorities. \*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Hidden matters will make it necessary to slow down, listen carefully, and let your intuition help you decide what's valid. When in doubt,

do your own thing, work alone and bring about positive personal change. Romance is featured. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Accept the inevitable, and turn any negative into a positive. Channel your energy into doing something that will make a difference, and reach out to people who share your concerns. Take the initiative to be original and to be a leader. \*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Keep your emotions in check and your mind on your goals. Be smart, and counter any difficulties someone throws your way with well-thought-out ideas. Strive for perfection, and put a stop to uncertainty. Speak up, and be forthright. \*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Be observant and stick to your plan. Don't let the changes others make confuse you. Choose to spend time with people who are active, engaging and who encourage you to take care of what and who is important to you. \*\*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Emotional spending will be your downfall. Don't let anyone pressure you into purchasing something you don't need. A personal change will help stabilize your life and your relationships with people who share your concerns. Romance is on the rise. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Put more initiative into how you live, who you associate with, and the comforts and conveniences that energize you. What you accomplish today will be impressive; you will gain the respect of people who matter to you. Share your thoughts and feelings. \*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Avoid pushy people and situations. Don't battle over something trivial. Take the high road, do what's right and best for you and those you love, and let others do as they please. Control your reactions, and redirect your energy into something worthwhile. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Stop trying to please people who take but give nothing in return. Choose your friends wisely and concentrate on how you live and the goals you set. Walk away from situations where pressure is applied and motives are questionable. \*\*\*\*

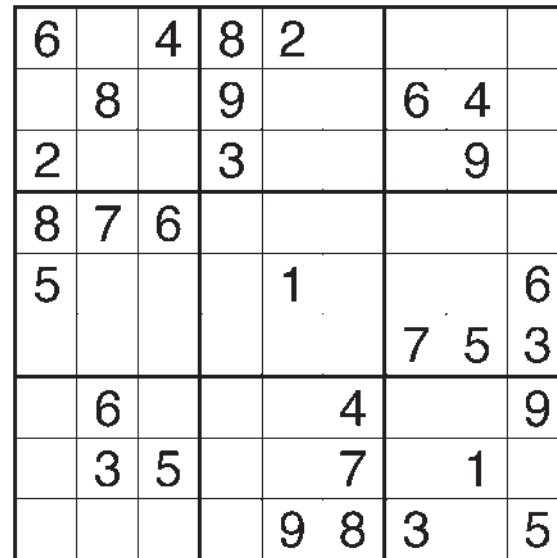
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Tunnel vision will help you avoid getting drawn into a destabilizing emotional situation. You have much to gain if you turn your thoughts into something tangible that will encourage prosperity, better health and a chance to do something worthwhile. \*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are energetic, wise and focused. You are sensitive and giving. Visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

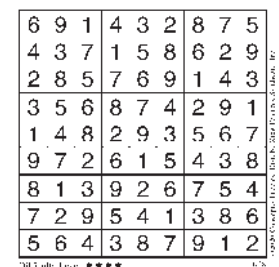


Difficulty Level ★ 11/30

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level: \*\*\*\*\*

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

**CIVIL ENGINEERING** Solution: 10 letters



© 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 11/30

Airports, Analyze, Base, Bridges, Budget, Canals, Cost, Dams, Data, Davinci, Deeds, Design, Devises, Documents, Draw, Eiffel, Gustave, Infrastructures, John, Leonardo, Plan, Ranks, Registered, Reports, Road, Robert, Roebing, Role, Sewers, Sites, Smeaton, Soils, Stephenson, Structural, Supervise, Team, Tunnel, Washington, Waste

Last Friday's Answer: Mandarin  
Purchase WONDERWORD books in time for the holidays! Visit [WonderWordBooks.com](http://WonderWordBooks.com) or call 1-800-642-6480.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Kobe's delayed Hall induction in May 2021



**SPRINGFIELD, Mass.** (AP)—Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan and Kevin Garnett will finally enter the Basketball Hall of Fame in May 2021.

The NBA said Saturday that the delayed Hall of Fame weekend—it was to have taken place in Springfield, Massachusetts in August, before being pushed back because of the coronavirus pandemic—will be held from May 13-15.

Bryant, Duncan and Garnett—with a combined 48 All-Star Game selections and 11 NBA championships between them—were the headliners of the class that was announced back in April. They all got into the Hall in their first year as finalists, as did WNBA great Tamika Catchings.

Others had to wait a bit longer for the Hall's call: Two-time NBA champion coach Rudy Tomjanovich got in this year, as did longtime Baylor women's coach Kim Mulkey, 1,000-game winner Barbara Stevens of Bentley and three-time Final Four coach Eddie Sutton.

Bryant died in a helicopter crash on Jan. 26, along with daughter Gianna and seven others. Sutton died May 23.

Also going in as part of this class is former FIBA Secretary General Patrick Baumann, who was chosen by the international committee. Baumann died in October 2018.

## NBA preseason starts Dec. 11

The NBA preseason is only two weeks away after league reveals schedule

It has been less than two months since the Los Angeles Lakers captured an NBA championship in the 2020 NBA Finals, and we're now just two weeks away from teams playing



AP  
In this Jan. 31, 2020 file photo, the Los Angeles Lakers honor the late Kobe Bryant by laying out T-shirts for fans prior to the team's NBA game against the Portland Trail Blazers in Los Angeles.

games again.

The NBA revealed its 2020 preseason schedule on Friday, with several teams starting their 2020-21 campaign on Dec. 11 and the preseason concluding on Dec. 19.

The NBA reportedly feared losing as much as \$1 billion if the season started in 2021 rather than December, on top of the billions potentially lost in ticket sales and other gameday revenue. As part of a revenue-sharing league, the players had plenty of reason to go along with a December start date.

The start of the NBA season was always going to wonky after some team's 2019-20 season ended in March while others ended in October, but the preseason schedule added yet an-

other quirk to the situation.

The Brooklyn Nets, Boston Celtics, New Orleans Pelicans, Miami Heat and Philadelphia 76ers are all scheduled to play only two preseason games before opening their season, while other teams have as many as four games to get ready.

## COVID-19 health protocols

NBA players who test positive for the coronavirus this season may have to miss nearly two weeks in some instances before being allowed to return to the court, the league told its teams Saturday.

That revelation was one of many in a 63,000-word document that explained some of the health and safety protocols for

the looming season.

The document still needs to be ratified by the league and the National Basketball Players Association, but it at least provides some sort of blueprint for the start of training camps in the coming days. All players who will be part of training camp need to begin a testing program by Monday—many were expected to start it Saturday—and teams can begin holding mandated group workouts starting Dec. 6, the league said. Individual workouts can begin Tuesday, if players have three consecutive negative tests.

There are two methods by which a player can return to play after a positive coronavirus test: one is a test-based resolution, in

which an infected individual has at least two consecutive negative PCR test results. The other is a time-based resolution, where a player would have to isolate, rest and avoid workouts for at least 10 days and then spend at least two more days training in isolation. He would also have to undergo cardiac screening before being cleared to return.

The league is still working with the union on specific protocols for life on the road, saying it wants to find ways to “promote more controlled environments and reduce nonessential interactions.”

But with no bubble, the risk of exposure and positive tests is obviously much higher. Virus figures around the world have been soaring in recent weeks,

including in many U.S. cities; the number of new COVID-19 cases reported in the U.S. reached 205,557 on Friday, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

## Lakers, Clippers pursuing Robinson

A 6'6" wing who can knock down the three and knows how to get to the rim, plus can defend a little is the description of a player a lot of NBA teams could use.

That's Glenn Robinson III—one of the top free agents still on the market—and there are four teams after him. The most likely suitors at this point appear to be the Kings, Los Angeles Lakers, Los Angeles Clippers and Utah Jazz.



## COLORADO

(AP)—The Denver Broncos have no quarterbacks.

The San Francisco 49ers have no home stadium or practice facility. And the Baltimore Ravens may not have enough players available for their next game, which has already been pushed back twice.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused major disruptions around the NFL on Saturday, again calling into question the league's plan to play a full schedule after several weeks that went relatively smoothly.

Multiple people familiar with the NFL's investigation told The Associated Press that all four of the quarterbacks on Denver's roster were ineligible to play Sunday against the New Orleans Saints.

One person told the AP that

## No QBs in Denver, no home for SF as COVID-19 sows NFL chaos

starter Drew Lock, backup Brett Rypien and practice squad veteran Blake Bortles were deemed high-risk close contacts with No. 3 quarterback Jeff Driskel on Wednesday, the day before Driskel tested positive for COVID-19.

Another person said the four quarterbacks apparently weren't wearing their masks the whole time they were together as required by the league's pandemic protocols.

The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the NFL and the Broncos hadn't made any announcements after Lock, Rypien and Bortles were ordered off the practice field Saturday and into isolation. The Broncos were scrambling to prepare practice squad rookie receiver Kendall Hinton and

No. 3 running back Royce Freeman to play QB against the Saints.

The Ravens, meanwhile, put six more players on the COVID-19 list, which is for players who've either tested positive for the virus or had close contact with an infected person. Baltimore had already disciplined an unidentified staff member for violating COVID-19 protocols, and the outbreak—the worst on any team this season—left the Ravens with three defensive linemen and one quarterback available.

The Tennessee Titans previously had their Week 4 game against the Pittsburgh Steelers postponed because of a COVID-19 outbreak, giving both teams an unexpected bye week, and their subsequent game against Buffalo was

pushed back to a Tuesday.

The Ravens' game at rival Pittsburgh was initially scheduled for Thanksgiving night and was moved to Sunday before being postponed again for Tuesday. Some Steelers players complained about their schedule being disrupted again because of another team's failure to contain an outbreak. But the Steelers placed starting running back James Conner on the COVID-19 list Saturday, joining three other teammates.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has warned all 32 teams that forcing changes to the schedule could lead to them being stripped of draft choices or even forfeiting games. The league has thus far avoided any forfeits and was on track to complete its regu-

lar season on time.

But the league has few options should the Baltimore-Pittsburgh game need to be further delayed. The league also moved Thursday night's matchup between Baltimore and Dallas to Dec. 7.

The Broncos also have been affected by outbreaks on other teams. Their game last month at New England was pushed back, first by a day and then by a week, resulting in a domino effect to their schedule and essentially costing them their bye week.

Broncos players appeared incredulous at the latest news.

“I’m not one to complain, but (at)NFL y’all can’t possibly send us into a game without a QB,” tight end Noah Fant tweeted. “The most important position to a offense. We don’t

even got a back up....

Linebacker Von Miller jokingly volunteered to step in, tweeting: “Been waiting my whole life for this moment. ‘Von ELWAY’.”

For the 49ers, the latest complication arose from the local government trying to contain the spread of the virus in the county where they practice and play their home games. Santa Clara County banned all contact sports from holding games and practices for the next three weeks.

The ban was to take effect Monday after the 49ers returned from their game at the Los Angeles Rams. It's set to last until Dec. 21.

The 49ers have home games scheduled for Dec. 7 against Buffalo and Dec. 13 against Washington at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara. The team also practices at that site.



# Tyson-Jones return bout ends in draw



**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**Mike Tyson showed glimpses of his destructive prime Saturday night during the 54-year-old boxing icon's return to the ring for a lively exhibition bout with 51-year-old Roy Jones Jr.

Both fighters had impressive moments during a fight that was unofficially ruled a draw by the WBC judges at ringside. Tyson and Jones fought eight two-minute rounds, and both emerged smiling and apparently healthy from a highly unusual event at Staples Center.

"This is better than fighting for championships," Tyson said of the heavyweight exhibition, which raised money for various charities. "We're humanitarians now. We can do something good for the world. We've got to do this again."

The former heavyweight champion of the world's return to the ring after a 15-year absence attracted international attention, and Iron Mike did his best to show the form that made him a legend to a generation of boxing fans. Tyson



tagged Jones with body shots and a handful of head punches during a bout that was required to be a fairly safe glorious sparring session by the California State Athletic Commission.

"The body shots definitely took a toll," said Jones, the former four-division world champion widely considered the most skilled boxer of his generation. "It's something

to take the punches that Mike throws. I'm cool with a draw. Maybe we can do it again."

Jones walked to the ring with gloves and trunks honoring Lakers legend Kobe Bryant, while Tyson wore his signature all-black trunks. After the traditional pre-fight pomp and an introduction by Michael Buffer, the 50-something champions both came out throwing

punches that evoked echoes of their glorious primes.

They also tied up frequently on the inside, and their occasionally labored breathing could be heard on the microphones in the empty arena.

Hip hop star Snoop Dogg's witty television commentary was among the loudest noises inside Staples, and he had a handful of zingers: "This is

<sup>AP</sup>  
In a photo provided by Triller, Mike Tyson throws a punch against Roy Jones Jr. during the third round of an exhibition boxing bout Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020, in Los Angeles.

like two of my uncles fighting at the barbecue!"

Tyson and Jones were the headliners in the most improbable pay-per-view boxing event in years, engineered by social networking app Triller and featuring fights interspersed with hip hop performances in an empty arena.

The event was derided as an anti-sporting spectacle by some critics, yet both Tyson and Jones appeared to handle themselves capably and safely. Fans were clearly enamored, with the show getting enormous traction on social media.

"I hit you with some good shots, and you took it," Tyson said. "I respect that."

In the co-main event, YouTube star Jake Paul knocked out former NBA player Nate Robinson, stopped in the second round of Robinson's pro boxing debut. Paul, in his second pro fight, recorded

three knockdowns against Robinson, the three-time NBA Slam Dunk contest champion, before an overhand right put Robinson flat on his face and apparently unconscious.

Tyson retired from boxing in 2005, saying he longer had "the fighting guts or the heart" after he quit in a dismal loss to journeyman Peter McBride. Finally free of his sport's relentless pressure, Tyson gradually straightened out his life, kicking a self-described drug addiction and eventually succeeding in acting, stage performance, charity work and even marijuana cultivation while settling into comfortable family life in Las Vegas with his third wife and their children.

The idea of a boxing comeback seemed preposterous, but Tyson started toward this unlikely fight when he started doing 15 daily minutes on a treadmill a few years ago at his wife's urging in a bid to lose 100 pounds. The workouts soon became multi-hour affairs encompassing biking, running and finally punching as he regained a measure of his athletic prime through discipline and a vegan diet.

## DELA CRUZ

From Page 20

tivation to push yourself harder," the Mt. Carmel School student said.

Dela Cruz also looks forward to the actual race next year, as he acknowledged how tough the course is.

"Right after clearing the Capitol Hill slope all I could think was how did Keith Longuski (five-time winner, including last year) ran that fast up this course every year. The entire course was brutal," Dela Cruz said.

"Anyone that says otherwise is obviously not pushing

themselves to their breaking point limit in this race. There is literally no rest until maybe the parking before Mt. Tapochao road but even that, it was merciless," the firefighter added.

Dela Cruz ran the Turkey Trot course after getting an invite from his friend, Joe Villacrusis, and is thankful for the opportunity to be part of the island's tradition every Thanksgiving.

"This year was a good fun run to find my base line. I'm going to use this as my baseline to work my way up to Keith's level for the years to come," Dela Cruz said.

Meanwhile, Leith Poole and

Jeff Race joined Dela Cruz in the Top 3 of the men's division. Poole also debuted in the Turkey Trot and timed in at 50:25, while Race extended his appearance in the event to 30-plus after submitting 52:02 in last Thursday's run.

In the women's division, Denis Myers came in at second place with her 54:55, while Lydia Tan did her third Turkey Trot and also finished third in this year's event after checking in at 58:58.

NMA secretary general Robin Sapong said more than 30 runners registered for the event, while several others also ran the course, unofficially.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Turket Trot finishers gather for a traditional group photo after completing the race held on Thanksgiving Day.

## CLOSE

From Page 20

came in at fifth place and was joined in the Top 10 by Dung Tenorio (68), Charlie Peters (69), Mel Sablan (69), Keoni Chariton (69), and Jack Salas (69). Twenty-one other golfers joined the Nov. 21 tournament, including guest players Tony Benavente, Tony Deleon Guerrero, and Sylvester Javier.

Peters, meanwhile, triumphed in one of the closest to the pin contests (hole No. 4) in the event. Other closest to the pin winners were Patrick George (No. 6), Rep. Marco Peter (No. 11), and Jack Salas (No. 15)

### 'Peps' Turkey Shootout

In honor of its late member, Jason "Peps" Sablan, MGA held a "turkey shootout" simultaneously with the November Ace

competition.

"This was special for MGA as we added a turkey shootout in remembrance of long-time member Jason "Peps" Sablan. We recently lost Jason to cancer. Jason loved to play golf and was always looking forward to our monthly aces. He's been a member since we created MGA in 2013," MGA vice president Joey Dela Cruz said.

In the shootout, Paul Kaipat and Rep. Marco Peter (R-Saipan) won the closest to fairway pin contest on No. 3 and 12, respectively.

The November Ace was MGA's seventh competition for the 2020-2021 season and its monthly events will run until April. Interested players can still join the monthly events, as MGA is open for membership. Annual membership fees are \$40 for newcomers and \$30 for returnees.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Golf Association members pose for a photo before heading out to the course to compete in the November Ace tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort last Nov. 21.





Kobe's  
delayed Hall  
induction in  
May 2021

PAGE 18

# Saipan Tribune Sports

Tyson-Jones  
return bout  
ends in draw

PAGE 19



20 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Dela Cruz, Chavez prevail

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Edward Dela Cruz Jr. won his debut, while Kaithyn Chavez recorded her best time, as Northern Marianas Athletics went ahead with the 36th Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run, but did it virtually.

Dela Cruz took on the 4.2-mile course with a group of friends and other regulars of Saipan's traditional trek from Lower Base to the highest peak on the island on Thanksgiving and timed in at 46:47 to notch the top honors in the men's division.

Chavez had the fastest time this year—with her 45:11—to earn the first place finish in the women's division and break her previous best mark of 59:15 when she ruled the girls U12 category in 2018. The 13-year-old logged 59:40 last year.

Though she beat her time when she ran the Turkey Trot course despite the pouring



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Runners pose for a photo at Mt. Tapochao after completing the 4-2-mile course in the 36th Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run last Thursday.

rain last Saturday, Chavez said she prefers racing with competitors just like what she did in 2018 and 2019. This year's Turkey Trot was done virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic with NMA allowing runners

to complete the course (single run) on their own pace and selected day (between Nov. 25 and Nov. 28).

"It's better to have an actual race with a lot of runners because you will have more mo-

See DELA CRUZ on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Edward Dela Cruz Jr, left, seen here in a screen grab, makes his way to the paved road up to Mt. Tapochao last Thursday, while Kaithlynn Chavez poses for a photo after finishing the race in record time last Saturday.

## Close win for Patrick Guerrero

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The winner of the Marianas Golf Association November Ace was decided by a hair with Patrick Guerrero nosing out Gus Palacios and Tony Satur in the monthly competition held at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The 15-handicapper recorded a pair of 40s on the front and back nines of the east

course of the Kagman facility for a gross 80 and net 65. Guerrero was up by only one stroke against Satur and Palacios, who shot similar net 66s, but the latter took the runner-up honors after prevailing in the scorecard playoffs. Palacios holds a 24 handicap and carded a 42 in the first nine holes and 48 in the last for a gross 90. The 9-handicapper

Satur, on the other hand, had a gross 77 after firing a 36 on the front nine and 37 on the back.

J.J. Atalig registered the best gross in the November competition with his 68 (37 and 31), but settled for fourth place, as he ended up with a net 67. Joey Dela Cruz (net 68)

See CLOSE on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this undated file photo, Patrick Guerrero watches his tee shot during a local tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.